Central VOICE

January • February 2008

Realtors Forecast

What Can Homeowners Expect for 2008?

By Frank Pizzoli

With nausea from the real estate roller coaster, what can homeowners expect for 2008?

Although credit excesses leading to a bust in the housing boom did not spread to commercial markets, where forecasters remain cautiously upbeat, the National Association of Realtors in late October reported that sales of existing homes in the September fell 8 percent, the largest decline on record since 1999.

True too that ticks and trends in residential and commercial markets are not isolated from each other. "As home prices continue to fall, people feel poor and spend less," and that puts pressure on the profits that fuel corporate spending, says William Wheaton, Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Center for Real Estate. He puts 50-50 odds on a mild recession in the US within the next six months.

What would it take to send economy into freefall? *See Page 29*

Primary Lending Services

Although sub-prime mortgages were ultimately blamed for 2007 housing market corrections, combinations of factors contributed to the decline, says Jerry Riggleman, owner, Primary Lending Services, LLC. "Brokers and lenders allowed customers who should not have purchased and refinanced homes to do so for the last three years, although some responsibility does rest with borrowers themselves." Riggleman stresses that mortgagers make sure customers fit a company's program, and vice versa.

PRIMARY LENDING SERVICES, LLC
Alternative Mortgage Specialis

No one knows a customer's situation better than the customer himself, Riggleman notes. "Knowing what your housing payment is from month to month is paramount to sustaining a

continued on page 28

Credit Cues for 2008

The average credit card holder has 7 cards. Be careful.

America owes $850 billion in credit card debt. The world's 54 poorest nations owe $412 billion in foreign debt.

A "preferred customer" for credit card companies a person "willing to make minimum monthly payments – forever."

The average American Household puts 14% of its disposable income into debt, only .5% into savings.

American Express Red gives 1% of sales to AIDS relief.

Deadline Jan. 18

Parade Committee Seeks Nominations for Grand Marshal

The Pride Parade Committee announces a Call for Nominations for the 2008 Pride Parade Grand Marshal.

The community is invited to nominate individuals to be the Grand Marshal of the Parade. The committee will then narrow down nominees to six individuals. The community-at-large will then have a chance to vote through "jar contributions" for their choice of nominee.

Duties

The Grand Marshal's duties include riding in the beginning of the Pride Parade on Saturday July 26, 2008 as well as making appearances at fundraisers like Dine Out with Pride and the Parade Mixer which will occur during the months of May and June.

continued on page 29

2007 - **Miss Glenda** served as 2007 Grand Marshal. Photo by Robert Armstrong

Switchboard Membership Unanimously Places Organization into Receivership

All 25 dues-paying members in attendance at a Dec. 6 meeting of The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH) voted unanimously to place the organization into "receivership."

There were a total of 30 people in attendance, including Greg King who, although not a current dues-paying GLSH member, was selected by handwritten ballot vote to serve as receiver.

The decision is effective immediately. King hopes to have all work related to the dissolution

continued on page 28

Hershey Country Club Hosts Gay & Lesbian Chamber Jan. 23

HERSHEY ENTERTAINMENT & RESORTS

Join members and guests of the Central PA Gay & Lesbian Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 23, 6 PM for a reception and annual meeting in the beautiful Picard Pavilion at the Hershey Country Club. Hershey Entertainment & Resorts is Platinum Sponsor for the event.

This is a business dress event and pre-registration is required. There is no cost for members and guest admission is $45. Registration deadline is Jan 4 and registration forms are available at www.cpglcc.org.

March 8

Fill Your Plate: Art Against AIDS 2008

Help fight HIV and AIDS March 8 when AIDS Community Alliance offers "Fill Your Plate: Art Against AIDS 2008," at Dickinson College Weiss Center for the Arts. The event features original art in all mediums from artists throughout the region.

All proceeds from the event support the services and programs of AIDS Community Alliance, an organization that offers services to people living with HIV/AIDS in south central Pennsylvania. Tickets are $35. Information on tickets and the event itself is available by calling 1-800-867-1550.

New Attitude

In the early days of AIDS Community Alliance, the agency hosted an art auction in Lancaster County called Art Against AIDS. Over the years, the event moved from its roots in Lancaster to

continued on page 4

INSIDE

- Annie Lennox Interview – Page 19
- Local Author Jennifer Storm – Page 19
- Compare Universal Health Care Proposals – Page 12
- Preserving PA Farmlands – Page 27
- PA Farm Show & Expo Center Events – Page 3

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9. Programs available for almost every financial situation
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FROM ROBERT HOOBLER, EXIT PLATINUM PLUS REALTY, BROKER/OWNER

"Hello Jerry, I want to thank you and Russel for a job well done. You were able to keep me informed of what the buyer needed and what their thoughts and goals were during the home buying process. I thank you for your professionalism and getting all the buyers concerns worked out. The best thing about working with you is when you say things like we had a small issue and you resolved it before the buyer or I even knew about it.
I LOVE IT!! I love working with you! Keep up the great work and thank you for all of your hard work!"

FROM GREG ALLEN, REMAX REALTY PROFFESIONALS, REALTOR

"Jerry will ask the right questions to better understand your goals and prepare you to make your homebuying experience easy. Jerry and Primary Lending will cut the "red tape" out of the situation. He will shop to get you the best legitimate deal, and most of all, Jerry makes your dream a reality!! Thank you Jerry!!"

Looking for a career change?

Looking for a new career in the mortgage industry? Primary Lending Services, LLC. is now accepting employment applications for loan officers. Experience is a plus, but is not required. Competitive Salaries and excellent benefits packages offered. Salary commensurate with experience. Serious inquiries only. Contact Jerry Riggleman for details. Primary Lending Services, LLC. is an equal opportunity employer.

Page 3

LGBT Center Coalition Plans for 2008

These days, more than a few people will agree that the world is getting better and becoming more open to the lives of gay people. Being visible almost everywhere is something most gay people can claim without a blush of the cheek or a wink of the eye. Anymore, it's just the way it is. And that's a good thing.

Community Center

Did you know there's a group of people here in central Pennsylvania who think there's one place from which gay people are absent? Yes, there's group of community leaders, both gay and straight, who find it hard to believe that a simple gathering place like an LGBT community center has never evolved. Nor has the idea of a community center ever been tried.

EGAL

In 2005, EGAL (the Equity for Gays and Lesbians Fund) of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC) brought together members of the region's LGBT community to examine the idea of creating a regional community center. Through a number of facilitated and self-driven sessions, participants accepted the idea and created a framework for moving forward with a board of directors.

LGBT Center Coalition

Now known formally as "The LGBT Center Coalition," this year-old, volunteer-led effort is working to create a regionally representative community center that is both a location and unifying point for Central Pennsylvania's large, diverse and multi-county gay and lesbian population. Currently, the boundaries of the Center would comprise the counties of Cumberland, Dauphin, York, Lancaster, Adams, Franklin, Lebanon and Perry.

"Meet 'n Greets"

Over the summer months, board members held informal "meet 'n greets" throughout the region to hear what the community had to say about this project. Overwhelmingly, their response was very positive and now the board is faced with moving forward on some key recommendations from the community. Chief among them is the creation of a "virtual center" to serve almost as an electronic clearinghouse of LGBT-related services and organizations.

Long-term Goals

Long-term goals for the center include locating a physical space, securing operational funding through a thorough fund development plan, and eventually hiring staff. In early 2008, the current board will celebrate its first anniversary by working to populate itself with several new members from throughout the region.

If you are interested in board service, providing volunteer support to the effort, or just to learn more about what is happening, go to centralpalgbtcenter.org or send an e-mail to Board President, David Zwifka at info@centralpalgbtcenter.org. Those interested in board service are asked to provide a mini-biography and resume for consideration by the Nominating Committee.

Make Valentine's Day Wonderful with Dinner Dance

The answer is the area's finest Valentine's Dinner & Dance for all lgbt people and their friends on Feb. 9. This premier event is presented by the Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus and the Railroad House Restaurant and Bed and Breakfast.

All the details have been taken care of – no hassles, no worries, just a great time with that special someone and dear friends. Men and women, singles and couples are invited to this Celebration of Love in downtown Marietta, only 25 minutes from Harrisburg, York and Lancaster.

First, enjoy an elegant buffet dinner at 7 PM in the Victorian-era Railroad House Restaurant, known for fabulous food. Chef Dennis promises fresh salad and breads to start, succulent seafood, braised beef and vegetarian entrees, sides to complement and lots of delectable desserts. Non-alcoholic beverages are included. Wine and cocktails will be available at an additional, special price.

Candlelight, delicious food, strolling singers and live piano music will create the perfect ambiance.

After dinner, let loose on the tavern dance floor with a professional DJ serving up hits till 11 PM. A fully-stocked cash bar will be staffed throughout dinner and the dance.

A limited number of lovingly-restored rooms are available in the Bed &Breakfast. Railroad House proprietors Raphael and Douglas suggest checking out www.therailroadhouse.com for more info on rooms and the restaurant.

Tickets for the entire evening – including dinner, music and dance - are just $40 per person. Only 80 tickets will be sold, so hurry and buy yours now. Proceeds benefit the Womyn's Chorus. Call the Chorus at 564-0112 to purchase tickets by the deadline of February 4th. Tickets will not be available at the door.

You won't want to miss the social event of the year!

Jan. & Feb 2008

PA Farm Show & Expo Center Events

Jan. 5-12 – Pennsylvania Farm Show
Jan. 14 – Garden State Horse Sale
Jan.15-17 – PA Draft Horse Sale
Jan. 23-27 - PA Auto and Boat Show
Feb. 2-10 – Eastern Sports & Outdoor Show
Feb. 16-17 – Motorama Races & Shows
Feb. 21-24 – PA Horse World Expo
Feb. 23-Mar 02 – PA Home Show

House Concert to Benefit Women's Circle

Got talent? There's a fundraising House Concert and Pot Luck benefiting The Women's Circle Jan. 12, 2 PM until ? at the home of Cathy and Shoes, Highspire. The concert will be along the lines of a Talent Show. If you have a talent this is the place to be! Tickets are $15 with a limit of 50 tickets to be sold. If you're interested in participating in show, want tickets or more information, call **Shoes or Cathy: (717) 939-9729.**

Pinnacle Health System & Jonathan Vipond III Honored for HIV/AIDS Work

The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania, Capital BlueCross and WHTM abc27 presented one of the most important fundraising events of the year - the Second Annual Honoree Awards Luncheon. The AIDS Fund honored Jonathan Vipond III and Pinnacle Health Systems' REACCH Program for their work in HIV/AIDS awareness and care.

The event also featured the unveiling of *"Second Lazarus: Funding Hope & Healing in South Central PA's HIV/AIDS Community,"* a television documentary created by area volunteers and artists, and funded by Cable Positive's Tony Cox Community Fund, Capitol Blue Cross and Comcast Spotlight.

The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania is a special project of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC), which stimulates philanthropy and enhances the quality of life of individuals and families living with HIV/AIDS throughout the Capital Region. Janice R. Black, President & CEO of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities said, "The awards luncheon is an extremely important platform to raise much-needed funds and awareness in continuing the fight against HIV/AIDS in South Central Pennsylvania. It also serves as a local recognition of World AIDS Day which is celebrated annually on December 1st."

Honorees

The Pinnacle Health REACCH Program (Resource Education And Comprehensive Care for HIV) is the corporate honoree to be recognized for their continuing commitment to meeting the challenges of providing comprehensive care to those infected with HIV/AIDS in our region. In the 1990's, under the direction of Dr. Lisa Tkatch, Pinnacle Health System was one of the first health care providers in the region to develop a comprehensive clinic and specialized services for adults and adolescents with HIV. Sandy Lloyd, REACCH Program Coordinator at Pinnacle Health System said, "We are thrilled to have heard that our program was chosen. All of our staff members are very dedicated to providing quality care to people who are HIV positive. This is more than just a job for us. And I believe our patients know we truly care."

Jonathan Vipond III, Esq., senior health care shareholder in Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney's Harrisburg office is the individual honoree. Jonathan's long career in the public and private sectors and his experience in appointed and elected positions have allowed him to build a sophisticated health care and human services regulatory and transactional practice with a significant emphasis on behavioral health issues. Jonathan has been a champion and advocate for those affected by HIV/AIDS in our community. During a recent interview, Janice R. Black said, "Jonathan Vipond is deeply interested in serving people with HIV/AIDS. Over the past eleven years in his service to the foundation, he has been involved in the work pertaining to the welfare of people with HIV/AIDS." His personal passion affords him the ability to be compassionate to the issues around AIDS and sensitive to assisting those with the disease. He is respectful, motivated and empathetic in his approach to serving people living with the disease. Mr. Vipond has proved himself worthy of this honor from the AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania."

Documentary Film

"Second Lazarus: Funding Hope & Healing in South Central PA's HIV/AIDS Community" is produced by local community activist, Frank Pizzoli and consists of vignettes detailing the critical work of AIDS service organizations throughout Central Pennsylvania. *"Second Lazarus"* refers to the second chance life-saving HIV medicines give to people living with HIV and AIDS, providing a second wave of hope and healing.

The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania is a community partnership of the National AIDS Fund (NAF). As one of 29 community partnerships across the country and the only one in Pennsylvania, the primary function of the partnership network is to raise funds and make grants to AIDS service organizations throughout Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania. The National

continued on page 12

International News

Vietnamese Pupils Accepting of Homosexuality

A survey of school children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam's capital, has revealed that a quarter of them believe at least 10% of their class mates are gay. HCMC University of Pedagogy conducted the poll of 300 pupils at three junior high and high schools and discovered that 80% of pupils al said "no" when asked "is homosexuality bad?"

Experts believe that while the actual number of gay pupils is difficult to determine, open homosexuality in schools appears to be on the rise, despite still carrying social stigma amongst the adult population. Homosexuality is legal in Vietnam but same-sex marriages are banned and there are no legal protections against discrimination.

Testimonial: "I was forced to flee Iran"

"I was born in September 1980, in Iran. As a teenager growing up in Shiraz, I was lonely and filled with self-loathing. I had never met another queer, and I thought I was a freak," says says Farsad, 26.

continued on page 13

Antiwar demonstrators gather for a rally to protest the war in Iraq at the Boston Common. A coalition of groups sponsored end-the-war protests in New York, Chicago, Salt Lake City, Jonesborough, Philadelphia, Orlando, Los Angeles, New Orleans, and other cities around the country.

Letters to the Editor

"Intelligence & Substance"

Central Voice is a newspaper with intelligence and substance. I look forward to reading each issue.

Greg, York

"Great Snapshot"

What a great snapshot of the region's arts, cultural, and political community your newspaper is.

Beth, Lancaster

"Love CV"

We moved here from DC. We were delighted when we found your newspaper.

We're not gay, but still find the articles interesting. We've had lots of gay friends over the years. They always complained that so many people saw them as on one thing – gay. Your publication shows readers that gays have many interests.

George & Marie, New Cumberland

Please submit Letters no more than 150 words.

VOICE box

As I talk to my straight friends about glbt civil rights, I have come to understand their image of our community is media driven. They see Will & Grace, The L Word, other shows and they think we're all just fine. They find it hard to understand we can be fired for being gay, that we have virtually no civil rights in any standard way across the US. The glbt community needs to step up to the plate and get involved in telling our story. We always assure ourselves that the best anecdote against "homo fear" is when a person gets to know a gay person. If we truly believe that, then why are so few of us willing to actually take that step? That's our job and no one else's.

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FILL YOUR PLATE continued

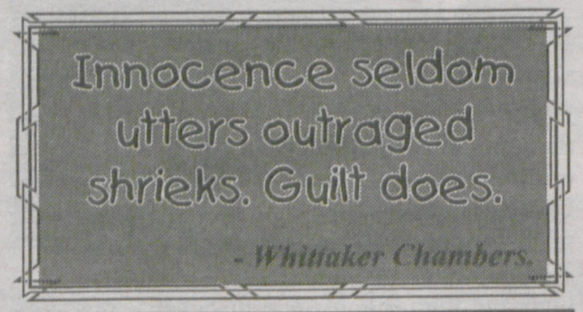
Hershey and most recently to Harrisburg.

"With each move, and over the years, the event evolved becoming more of a social gala with a silent auction and lost its connection to the local art community. Fill Your Plate – Art Against AIDS 2008 returns the annual event to its roots in the art community," says Phil Goropoulos, ACA President and CEO.

The goal of the event is to feature both the work of professional artists in the community – including college faculty – and the work of students from area colleges and art schools. The pieces will be sold via silent and live auctions on the evening of March 8.

Added Twist

Besides bidding on original works of art, there's a twist to this year's event. As part of the $35 admission, individuals attending will select a hand-made ceramic plate fashioned by local artists. The plates specially made for the event. Participants will dine from their plate during the course of the evening. When the evening concludes, participants may have their plates hand washed by Goropoulos and Dale Erskine, Lebanon Valley College, and ACA board chair. Marianne Boltz, OD, Penn State Hershey Medical Center is event chair.



The Water Closet Is a Lonely Place – From our Key West correspondent Chris Tittel, a Fantasy Fest parade entry: The "Larry Craig for President" mobile toilet stall, complete with wingtips and waving hand.

Does PA Need a Constitutional Convention?

By Frank Pizzoli, Publisher

Does Pennsylvania need a constitutional convention? When citizen outrage over legislative pay raises was at an all time high in 2005, Rep. Dwight Evans (he voted for the raise and kept it after the repeal) called for a constitutional convention. The suggestion went nowhere. Last November, he again trotted out the idea. The House rejected Evans, 118 to 83.

Conservative?

Pennsylvania's last constitutional convention was held 39 years ago, in 1968, after seven studies conducted between 1872 and 1968, or 96 years. Our fear of change is why I've long felt our region's "conservative" moniker is a misnomer. We're conservative (cautious) because we fear change, not because we've studied political philosophy and concluded that the government that governs least governs best. Evans remarked after his convention defeat, "Guess we just need another 57 years."

We're a region, and state, populated with "Entitlement Republicans." They love fat state contracts as much as the next guy. They just don't want you to have the same deal. Larded up budgets are fine as long they or their coddled special interests benefit. That's why our elected officials always miss budget deadlines. Takes them a long time to quiet down all those squealing pigs. Try saying "Republican" with *your* mouth full.

Recommend

If we ever have a convention, we suggest reforms: term limits, citizen drawn electoral districts for all elections, county-based government, including school districts, reducing our multitude of municipalities to 68. We favor no more pay raises unless voted on by the public. Our well-fed General Assembly annually "automatically" receives a 3.5% COLA, amounting to $2,550 for 2008, bringing rank-and-file pay to $76,163. The state's average taxpayer wage is $37,580.

We'd suspend all health care benefits for the assembly until they find ways to provide the same or similar benefits for taxpayers. Citizens, whose families struggle to keep, and in many instances find, health care coverage, shouldn't go without coverage while elected officials pay for their own top notch care from tax dollars. We realize the last suggestion isn't the work of a convention. We're just making a point. There's more, but why be greedy?

Priests Jailed for Protesting Fort Huachuca Torture Training

By Bill Quigley
Truthout Report

Louis Vitale, 75, a Franciscan priest, and Steve Kelly, 58, a Jesuit priest, were sentenced to five months each in federal prison for attempting to deliver a letter opposing the teaching of torture at Fort Huachuca in Arizona. Both priests were taken directly into jail from the courtroom after sentencing.

Fort Huachuca is the headquarters of military intelligence in the US and the place where military and civilian interrogators are taught how to extract information from prisoners. The priests attempted to deliver their letter to Maj. Gen. Barbara Fast, commander of Fort Huachuca. Fast was previously the head of all military intelligence in Iraq during the atrocities of Abu Ghraib.

The priests were arrested while kneeling in prayer halfway up the driveway to Fort Huachuca in November 2006. Both priests were charged with trespassing on a military base and resisting orders of an officer to stop.

Time to Redefine Privacy?

By Marlene Lang

Redefine privacy? That's what we need to do in America.

So argues the deputy director of national intelligence; after all, Don Kerr reasons, everyone's on YouTube and MySpace, so anonymity is no more. And privacy, which we've errantly equated with anonymity, is no more. We're too interconnected. Wrong. Has Mr. Kerr heard that you can set your MySpace profile on "private?"

Just because a generation of exhibitionists has chosen to flash flesh, destroying the concept of "private parts," does not mean that privacy as we know it should be suspended, tossed or twisted into something new and unrecognizable. Kerr claims that protecting anonymity is "not a fight that can be won."

OK, I'll bow to expertise and admit that on some level we're only basking in an illusion of privacy. Kerr should know; he once directed our nation's spy satellite program.

Whatever degree of privacy can be maintained – in our interconnected era – is worth the fight.

Kerr suggested we preserve a more basic, essential type of privacy, one that is not defined by our keeping information to ourselves.

The context of this absurd statement? Surveillance discussions. The department of intelligence wants you and I to give it all up; stop fighting and just accept that the United States government is going to have access to your phone calls, e-mails and dirty text messages.

The Senate Judiciary Committee last week dipped into the muck of how to allow the feds to continue sweeping up e-mail messages and phone calls that pass through a giant fiber optic crossroads site in San Francisco, and somehow keep citizens' identities out of the data capture. Maybe they should accept Kerr's simple answer: Convince Americans that having their private info intercepted is inevitable. Redefine.

Are you and I so very important and interesting that the goverment cares to spy on us? Probably not. Nor were most of those unwitting AT&T customers very important. Yet, they made the surveillance sweep. Their info is in a special "file" someplace, according to a confession by the retired AT&T tech man who cleverly set up the sweep. There data has been copied and stored. Just in case.

This is creepy stuff, my fellow Americans. The word games are growing thick. We've been warned about governments and word games.

Didn't hear that warning? It was in a book called "1984."

Consider Kerr's new nonsensical definition of privacy, courtesy of the Ministry of Truth: "Instead, privacy, I would offer, is a system of laws, rules, and customs with an infrastructure of Inspectors General, oversight committees, and privacy boards on which our intelligence community commitment is based and measured. And it is that framework that we need to grow and nourish and adjust as our cultures change." Actually, this was posted by TPM Muckrackers, a credible site whose motto is, "They've got mud, we've got rakes."

So, keep it clean. The intelligence department wants to grow and nourish its infrastructure of inspectors, committees and boards. If you want privacy, meet your lover or your fellow dissident in an expansive corn field downstate or among the deer herd in western Wisconsin. Just don't take your GPS-tagged cell phone along - Don Kerr may be watching you.

Climate Change: The Issue of Our Time

By Brian J. Hill, President
PA Environmental Council

The debate is over – science has spoken. Our planet is warming up and human activity is a major reason.

More days in Harrisburg will exceed 90 degrees and threaten the health of vulnerable people. Across Pennsylvania, milk and fruit production will decline, and farmers will struggle with droughts and invasive weeds. We will see a sharp decline in the Susquehanna River's smallmouth bass populations, as well as the trout in area streams.

And Ski Roundtop, other ski slopes and winter sports generally face tough times as the climate warms.

Globally, the risks are much more dramatic. Tens of millions of people may be refugees from rising ocean levels on the coasts where they live and work. Millions more may be displaced by severe droughts and dramatic declines in food production in places like America's Midwestern "breadbasket."

These and other impacts can be reduced if we take decisive action to address climate change caused by carbon and other greenhouse gases, which trap heat in the atmosphere and warm the planet.

Individuals can take important steps like driving less, turning down the thermostat and planting trees, which absorb carbon through the magic of photosynthesis.

Some good things are happening. For instance, the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources will soon release a report on how many trees the state can plant and maintain.

But transportation is responsible for a quarter of the carbon released into the atmosphere. Congress is dawdling with legislation to increase fuel-efficiency standards even though most Americans believe car-makers need to be pushed to do better. Oh, and people are angry that not-so-efficient vehicles cost them more than a few pennies every time they fill up at $3-plus per gallon.

Other energy costs are also rising, but the state legislature has not acted on most of Governor Rendell's Energy Independence Strategy, which calls for electric utilities to provide customers with smart meters so they can shift use to non-peak times and save both energy and money.

Other legislation awaiting action in Harrisburg would require utilities to meet growing demand by conservation, not new power plants; require more homegrown, renewable biofuels; and create an $850 million fund to support renewable energy, energy efficiency and conservation.

As worthy as these efforts may be, we also need a climate-change plan with goals in every sector.

Such a plan was offered in the Climate Change Roadmap for Pennsylvania, in which the Pennsylvania Environmental Council made 38 specific recommendations that look at the challenges and the opportunities.

Our state emits more carbon than all but 22 nations, more than 105 developing nations combined. As a big part of the problem, we need to be a big part of the solution.

The state House and Senate have passed bipartisan legislation requiring the state to develop a plan to address global warming. This plan could draw extensively on the Roadmap, which was developed with input from utilities, industry, farmers and other stakeholders.

Federal action is coming – Pennsylvania needs to seize the economic opportunity as a leader in reducing carbon.

Our U.S. Senators, Arlen Specter and Bob Casey, both support climate-change legislation.

Specter introduced a bill to set up a "cap and trade" program in which carbon emissions would be limited and anyone who captures more carbon could sell credits, making money by making progress.

But the Union of Concerned Scientists and others maintain that, unless we reduce carbon levels by 80 percent by 2050, global warming could fundamentally change life on the planet. Specter's bill does not meet this goal, while legislation cosponsored by Senator Casey does.

Climate change holds tremendous risks along with significant economic opportunities for innovators and entrepreneurs who capture carbon in our forests, farms and geology. We need to seize these opportunities as we address this most pressing issue of our day.

The Pennsylvania Environmental Council promotes the protection and restoration of the natural and built environments through innovation, collaboration, education and advocacy with the private sector, government, individuals and communities as partners to improve the quality of life for all Pennsylvanians.

Dollars Over Democracy 85% Favored Restricting Contributions

By Jake Miller
Common Cause / PA

2007 marked the 100th anniversary of the Tillman Act, promoted by President Theodore Roosevelt, as an effort to protect common Americans' free speech rights from being drowned out by wealthy special interests.

Since then states and municipalities across the country moved to further protect their elections and governments from the corrupting influences of campaign dollars. In recent decades many have begun to implement systems of "citizen-owned elections."

Pennsylvania, however, remains one of only a dozen states mired in the backwaters of 19th century politics, failing to even restrict the amount of money that individuals and political committees can give to candidates. Five figure political contributions are illegal in most places, but in Pennsylvania five and even six figure contributions are increasingly common.

Special interests with business before our government are paying the campaign tabs of elected officials. Why? Simple - because it works. At minimum, they provide preferred access to power. Often they produce preferred treatment in the halls of power.

In November of last year, we saw another dangerous manifestation of this problem. According to media and other reports, Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Tom Saylor raised over $290,000 for his *retention* race. Today the bulk of judicial campaign funds come from lawyers, legal industry PACs, and people from large corporations that have issues before the courts.

When Pennsylvanians appear in court they shouldn't have to worry whether the other party's attorney gave a larger contribution to the judge than their own attorney. Pennsylvania needs to eliminate this factor from its judicial system.

North Carolina recently confronted this problem and reined it in. Through the Judicial Campaign Reform Act, it created a voluntary system of public financing for judicial candidates. The driving factor behind the change was the people. A poll conducted by the North Carolina Center for Voter Education revealed that 78% believed campaign contributions influence judges' decisions "a great deal" or "some," while 58% believed there is a "system of justice for the rich/powerful and one for everyone else."

Nearly a decade ago, the Pennsylvania Supreme Court conducted a similar survey of Pennsylvanians with even more resounding results. 85% of Pennsylvanians favored restricting campaign contributions to judges to $1,000; 80% favored limiting the amount that judicial candidates could spend; and 77% favored providing public financing to judicial candidates that refuse campaign contributions. But the legislature refused to respond.

The influence of cash on judicial campaigns has garnered national attention. According to Robert Barnes of *The Washington Post*, the money raised by Pennsylvania Supreme Court candidates (now in excess of $5 million) has easily eclipsed Pennsylvania's previous judicial fundraising records. Federal Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer declared that "the rising demands on judges to raise money for their expensive campaigns… could lead to the impression that the courthouse door 'is open to some rather than the door is open to all.'"

It's time to knock down that door completely. It's time to support publicly funded, Citizen-Owned Elections.

In 1985, the state House of Representatives passed HB-1379, which would have provided Pennsylvanians with citizen-owned judicial elections. But the Senate let it die. Since then other states moved forward to clean up their elections. Meanwhile, the integrity of Pennsylvania's elections and government spirals downward in a system dominated by special interest campaign contributions. Many reform organizations, including Common Cause/PA, support a merit-based judicial appointment system. But we must now recognize the critical need to have clean elections as long as we elect judges.

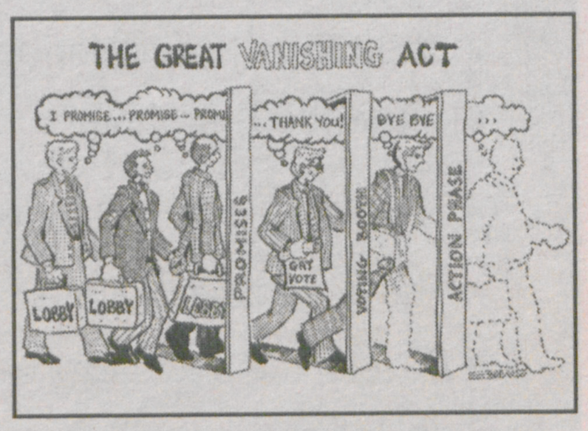
Pennsylvanians should follow North Carolina and pass a practical solution to counter the increasing costs and concerns associated with privately financed judicial races. Pennsylvania should enact a system wherein judges' loyalty is to the public - not to the lawyers, politicians and corporate fat cats that fund their campaigns. Pennsylvanians should encourage their legislators to support Citizen-Owned Elections for our judges.

To achieve clean citizen-owned judicial elections, Common Cause/PA is offering a proposal in which candidates will run under a system that limits campaign contributions, restricts candidate expenditures, and provides partial public financing of campaigns. Pennsylvanians who want courts unbiased by campaign contributions should back this effort.

Pennsylvanians also should support the more general, but broader, HB-1720 introduced by Rep. David Levdansky which would limit campaign contributions to ALL candidates running for public office in Pennsylvania.

Who will own our elections? Who will own our government? Will it increasingly be those who can afford to make large campaign contributions; or will it be "We the People"? The choice is ours and the time for action is now.

Jake Miller is the Chair of the Common Cause/Pennsylvania Citizen-Owned Elections Project Team.



Will Reforms Eliminate Junk Law Suits?

Pennsylvania's leading small-business advocacy group - the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) – recently hailed a package of legislative reforms designed to reduce junk lawsuits and other costly lawsuit abuse practices.

NFIB's Kevin Shivers joined former US Attorney Gen. Richard Thornburgh (former PA governor) and state House lawmakers to unveil the measures that will reduce small-business costs. "All of us pay the high price of lawsuit abuse," said Shivers.

"Lawsuit filings have tripled in the last 30 years and have increased costs on all fronts. Junk lawsuits and lottery-sized awards have forced insurance premiums through the roof. These costs have forced employers to raise prices; forced governments to raise taxes for government services; and reduced our access to critical professional services and inflated health-care costs due to the practice of 'defensive medicine' and sky-high malpractice insurance rates."

Shivers noted that small-business owners rank the "cost and availability of liability insurance" as the second most important problem facing them today. He said even the threat of a lawsuit can force an owner to take significant time away from their business and can cost as much as $100,000 to defend.

"Small business is the backbone of Pennsylvania's economy, employing half of the state's workforce," Shivers continued. "A typical NFIB small-business owner makes about $50,000 per year. Tragically, these small employers are just one lawsuit away from bankruptcy.

Elected Officials' Tricks Do Us No Good

By Henry
A PA gay taxpayer afraid to use his real name for fear of being fired

When Commonwealth Court, 5-1, late last year threw out language passed in 2002 that expanded Pennsylvania's hate-crimes law to include crimes committed on the basis of the victim's sexual orientation or physical disabilities, they said the much-needed amendment was "unconstitutional."

Why? The judges wrote in their majority opinion that the new language protecting sexual orientation or physical disabilities was inserted into legislation that was originally a bill concerning agricultural vandalism and crop destruction. The final legislation bore no resemblance to the original bill by the time it was passed and signed into law by then-Gov. Mark Schweiker.

Way to go team! I'll bet if you were drafting a law for a pay raise you'd do it correctly.

With the defeat comes the chance for the "gay on the brain" crowd, conservative Christian groups like Repent America, which filed a lawsuit in 2005 challenging the amendment, to claim victory. They have been handed a victory in that needed protections will go unaddressed. The "victory" does not result from the court calling the essential elements of the protections flawed. On the contrary, Judge James Gardner Colins wrote that "We emphasize that no matter how salutary the purpose of a bill may be, it still must comport with constitutionally mandated requirements for passage."

I have a suggestion for our esteemed General Assembly. Rather than moving around House and Senate employees in a haze of smoke and mirrors during election time – and then issuing obscene bonuses from an off-the-books fund that itself should be investigated - you concentrate on doing your job, and doing it right the first time.

While financial planning is important for anyone, for gay and lesbian partners it can be crucial. That's why we'd like to develop a plan that works for you now and in the future. Come for a free consultation where we discuss these and other issues, including:

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Investment Resolutions to Follow All Year Long

By Ronald R. Wetzel Jr.
Financial Advisor
Smith Barney

Here are a few resolutions that are easier to stick with than many of the traditional January vows. You do not have to overcome big obstacles to follow these tenets of investing, just develop a few good habits.

Re-evaluate Your Portfolio

Analyze your portfolio holdings considering your investment objectives, time horizons and life stage. If you have invested heavily in stocks and are approaching retirement age, you may want to consider reallocating a portion of your portfolio into high-quality bonds. Their long-term return potential may not be as high as stocks, but neither is their short-term volatility. As you get closer to the time when you will need these assets, you may want to consider shifting to more conservative investment vehicles to help reduce risk.

Take The Long-Term View

Consider the quality of a company before you invest and research its track record over five to10 years. Resist judging an investment solely by last year's return—past performance is no guarantee of future results. A good investment can have an off year and still provide outstanding returns over the long term.

Invest in a Blend of Securities

One time-tested way to help reduce risk in a portfolio is to diversify. That means holding a mix of stocks, bonds and cash-equivalent instruments from a variety of issuers. Younger, conservative investors who want to invest in stocks for long-term growth may want to consider investing a portion of their portfolio in corporate and government bonds. Investors of retirement age should keep in mind that inflation could erode the returns on short-term securities. Maintaining at least a minority portion of a portfolio in equities could improve the chances of keeping total return (yield plus capital gains) ahead of inflation. This strategy does not protect against loss.

Keep an Emergency Fund

Be prepared for unexpected cash needs: emergency medical bills, child care, home repairs and living expenses in case of a sudden job loss. Always keep a portion of your portfolio liquid.

Watch for Tax Developments

The amount you keep after taxes is the most accurate measure of your investment's performance. Your tax bracket, investment objective and changes in tax codes could make changing your investment strategy worthwhile. Consider speaking with your personal financial and tax advisors about whether tax-advantaged investments may be suitable for you.

Leave a Legacy

In today's environment, it may be a good idea to consider investment strategies that allow you to leave an estate for your children, grandchildren, other heirs or a favorite charity as part of your overall financial plan. Such plans may not require as much updating as altering your investment objectives. A conversation with your tax and financial advisors could help your beneficiaries eliminate probate (a lengthy procedure whereby a court handles distribution of assets not designated to a beneficiary) and other estate planning issues.

Save Time and Money

Take advantage of the services offered by your brokerage firm. You could save yourself the trouble of delivering stocks and bonds to your financial consultant each time you're ready to sell an investment by having your securities held in the firm's street name. When you're ready to sell, just call your financial advisor. Or, consider consolidating your banking and investments into a central financial brokerage account. You may be able to manage all your investing, savings, borrowing and spending in a single account. And, some brokerage firms may supply you with an ATM card for convenient access to your funds.

A financial plan that includes the above, periodically monitored with the help of your financial advisor, could help make keeping your financial resolutions painless.

Ronald Wetzel is a Financial Advisor with Smith Barney located in Harrisburg, Pa and may be reached at 717-780-1789.

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By Kristen Richards

Transgender Individuals Rejected Again with ENDA

On May 14, 1974, the fifth anniversary of the Stone Wall Riots, Representatives Bella Abzug and Ed Koch introduced to Congress the "Gay Rights Bill," the first civil rights bill banning discrimination based on Sexual Orientation. Essentially, the bill would have attached 'Sexual Orientation" to the 1964 U.S. Civil Rights Act.

Over time, 22 different bills were introduced to Congress to eliminate discrimination and prejudice against gays and lesbians. None of the bills ever passed nor did any include protection for transgender people. Findings indicate .25-1% of the US population identify as transgender, roughly 1-3 million people.

Earlier failed bills attempted to gain all of the rights inclusive of the Civil Rights Act. In the 1990's, a new effort focused solely on employment rights and morphed into the "Equality Act." In 1996, the Equality Act was renamed the Employment Nondiscrimination Act (ENDA), ultimately proceeding to a floor vote but defeated by a 49-50 vote in the Senate. The House never voted on it. ENDA ensures LGBT people will not get fired from their jobs resulting from discrimination and prejudice.

Flip-Flop

On April 24, 2007, ENDA Bill H.R. 2015 was introduced by Representatives Barney Frank, Chris Shays, Tammy Baldwin and Deborah Pryce, which included Gender Identity. Another version, Bill, H.R. 3685 was later introduced by Rep. Frank on September 27, 2007, excluding Gender Identity. Over 250 LGBT organizations

continued on next page

Rainbow Market Report

Rainbow Market Report					
Company	Symbol	Year High	Year Low	11/30/07 Close	Fortune 500
Aetna Inc	AET	58.00	40.31	55.88	×
American Airlines	AMR	41.00	19.00	21.18	×
Apple Computer Inc.	AAPL	192.68	76.77	182.20	×
AT&T Corp.	T	42.97	32.70	38.21	×
Borders Group Inc.	BGP	24.15	11.06	12.51	×
BP America	BP	79.77	58.62	72.74	
Daimler Chrysler Corp.	DAI	111.65	58.33	101.67	
Dell Inc.	DELL	30.77	21.61	24.54	×
Ford Motor Co.	F	9.70	6.85	7.51	×
Gap Inc.	GPS	21.04	15.20	20.40	×
General Mills Inc.	GIS	61.52	54.17	60.15	×
Intel Corp.	INTC	27.54	18.75	26.08	×
Intuit Inc.	INTU	33.10	26.14	29.32	
Johnson & Johnson	JNJ	68.75	59.72	67.74	×
Kraft Foods Inc.	KFT	37.20	29.95	34.55	
MetLife	MET	71.23	57.21	65.59	×
Microsoft Corp.	MSFT	37.50	26.60	33.60	×
Molson Coors Brewing Company	TAP	57.70	35.60	53.84	×
New York Times Co.	NYT	26.90	16.02	16.50	
Owens Corning	OC	36.93	21.48	22.01	×
PepsiCo Inc.	PEP	77.51	61.89	77.18	×
Pfizer Inc.	PFE	27.73	22.24	23.76	×
Sears, Roebuck & Co.	SHLD	195.18	98.25	105.51	×
Southern California Edison	EIX	60.26	42.76	55.98	
Sprint Corp.	S	23.42	14.22	15.52	×
The Charles Schwab Corp.	SCHW	25.28	17.41	24.31	×
Toyota Motor Sales, USA Inc.	TM	138.00	104.50	112.65	
Viacom Inc.	VIA	45.03	36.00	42.00	×
Walgreens Co.	WAG	49.10	36.35	36.59	×
Washington Mutual Inc.	WM	46.38	16.75	19.50	×
Wells Fargo & Co.	WFC	37.99	29.29	32.43	×

including Lamda Legal, GLAD and the Gay & Lesbian Task Force protested the diminished version. Surprisingly, Human Rights Campaign (HRC), the largest LGBT organization in the United States did not. In fact, HCR flip-flopped. On the 11th hour, HRC reneged on their position, determining the bill would not pass if it contained full inclusion.

In 2004, the HRC Board voted for gender inclusion. In September, 2007, HRC President Joe Solmonese proudly proclaimed to roughly 900 transgender people at the Southern Comfort Conference in Atlanta, (the country's largest annual transgender gathering) full, ongoing support for an all-inclusive bill. During his keynote address, he indicated "not only would HRC support only a fully inclusive ENDA, but that it would actively oppose anything less." Solmonese/HRC's pledge amplified quickly in the transgender community as a sign of one community finally working together.

Legal Loopholes

On November 8, 2007, the U.S. House of Representatives passed Bill H.R. 3685, the stripped down version of ENDA by a vote of 235-184. H.R. 2015 prohibited discrimination "on the grounds that a person does not have an appearance, mannerisms or other characteristics that may be perceived by some people as different from those traditionally associated with that person's sex." However, lesbians, gays and bisexuals (LGB) are sometimes perceived that way. In essence, if the bill passes the through Senate and the President does not veto such, employers could ultimately fire employees for not appearing or acting masculine or feminine enough. Employers could claim they do not have bias against LGB people but in realty, may not want "nonconforming" people representing their company.

Lambda Legal reported on a federal court of appeal two years ago a ruling of a lesbian who claimed that she was discriminated against because "she did not conform to stereotypical expectations of femininity" and did not have a viable claim under New York State's Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act (SONDA), which excludes discrimination based on gender identity and expression.

365gay.com recently reported a woman is suing a NYC restaurant after she was ejected for looking "too masculine." She used the women's bathroom and a patron reported the woman to the bouncer. The bouncer neglected to check her ID to prove that she was female.

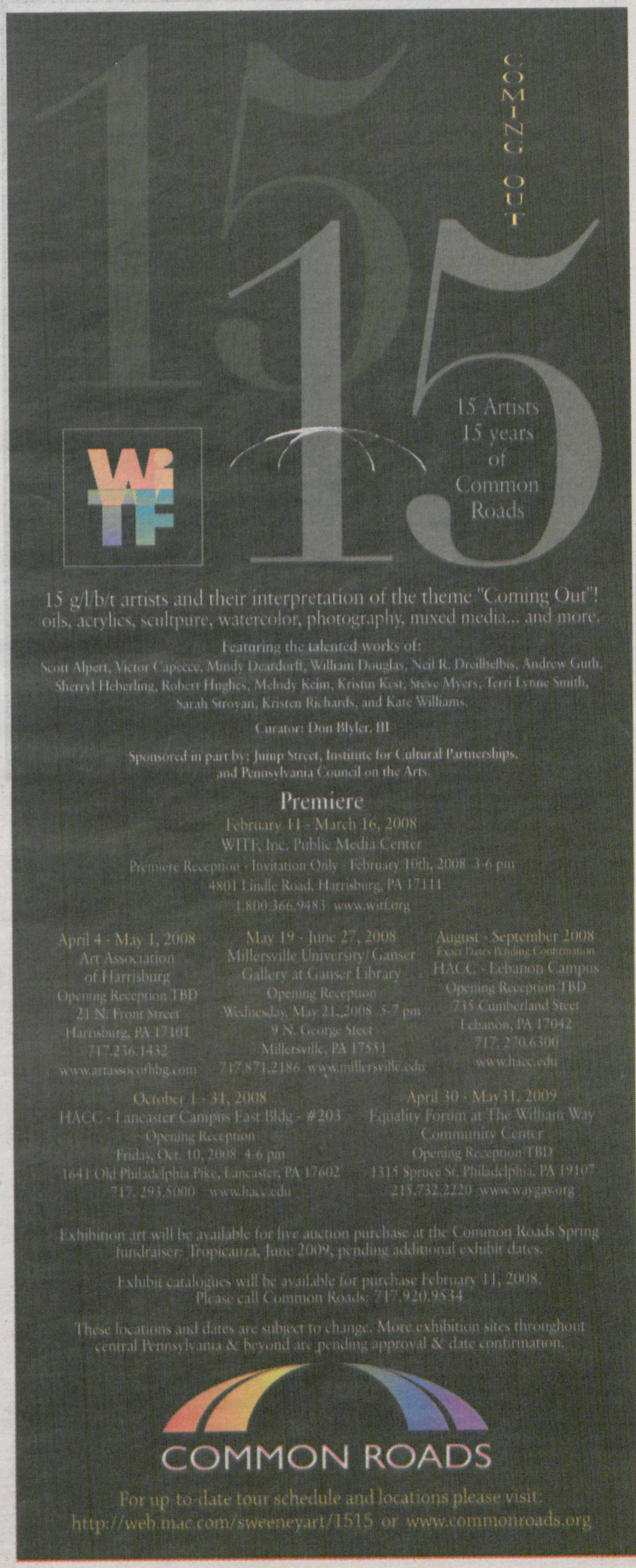
Exemptions

Bill H.R 3685 exempts all religious organizations, educational institutions who's primary purpose is "to teach religion or spread doctrine, houses of worship, parochial schools, and religious missions." The bill also exempts the armed services and small businesses with 15 employees or less.

Come Together

Donna Rose, the only transgender board member of HRC recently resigned from HRC resulting from their decision. Rose stated on October 3, 2007, "History teaches painful lessons. Any celebration of rights gained at the expense of others is not a celebration. It is a failure of effective leadership. It is to offer the promise of a tomorrow that you know in your heart will never come. It is to choose to turn your back on those who need you most, who do not have the voice or the stature to speak for themselves."

Transgender people cannot mourn the recent decision. They've accomplished monumental things in the past 15 years. Through gender education, the transgender community must band together and continue winning over the hearts and minds of people. They fought back from police raids in San Francisco before the Stone Wall Riots. They were right beside their gay brothers and lesbian sisters during the Stonewall Rebellion. Per Donna Rose, "rather than wallow in the disappointment of abandonment by those it appears were never really with us in the first place, it is incumbent upon us to celebrate the resiliency of our spirit, the support of our true friends, and to move forward together." For now, transgender people, family, friends and allies can send a message to HRC through their pocketbooks. Money also speaks loudly.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Exhibition art will be available for live auction purchase at the Common Roads Spring fundraiser: Tropicaliza, June 2009, pending additional exhibit dates.
Exhibit catalogues will be available for purchase February 11, 2008.
Please call Common Roads: 717.920.9534
These locations and dates are subject to change. More exhibition sites throughout central Pennsylvania & beyond are pending approval & date confirmation.
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Jan., 12 & 13

Men's Chorus Goes Platinum

The Harrisburg Men's Chorus proudly announces its winter concert, ""We've Gone Platinum!" as part of its 2007-2008 20th Anniversary Season. There are two exciting shows: Sat., Jan. 12, 8 PM and Sun., Jan. 13, 2 PM. Tickets are $15, General Admission; $10 Seniors/Students.

To support its growing audience, the Chorus is excited to announce its return to the newly renovated Rose Lehrman Arts Center at Harrisburg Area Community College, One HACC Drive, Harrisburg, PA 17110. The beautiful new space will provide a remarkable opportunity for the Chorus to extend its message of inclusion and tolerance to new audiences while continuing its tradition of fusing humor and sentiment to create an unforgettable musical experience.

In celebrating its platinum anniversary, the Harrisburg Men's Chorus will present the world premiere of "The Ultimate Broadway Song," a tongue-in-cheek celebration of all things Broadway by esteemed choral composer Eric Lane Barnes. Artistic Director David Walker has designed a program that is sure to entertain both novice and seasoned choral fans. The Chorus will be delighting audiences with classical standards like Mozart's "Ave Verum Corpus" and more recent platinum hits belonging to ABBA and The Village People.

The group brings the unique sound of a men's chorus to a variety of genres, effortlessly switching from jazz to show tunes to folk songs, making it a must-see Harrisburg staple. Audiences will also be treated to the debut of the new Men's Chorus small ensemble, as well as some of Harrisburg's most outstanding vocalist solos. Additional selections include "Over the Rainbow" from The Wizard of Oz and "For Good" from Broadway's smash hit Wicked.

For further information about this topic or to schedule an interview, please contact Tim Servinsky Jr at 484-467-0519 tservinsky@gmail.com. www.harrisburgmenschorus.org. 717-236-3809

New Pride Organization Announces Board

"As president of the newly-formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc., I am pleased to announce the members of the board of directors," says Dave Walker. Walker most recently has served the community by successfully chairing the 2006 and 2007 Pride events.

The new organization, formed simultaneously with the recent dissolution of the Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg (GLSH), will continue the region's tradition of offering a quality Pride and Parade event annually. Formerly, GLSH had been the umbrella under which Pride, and the last two years a Parade, had been housed.

New board members are: Walker, president; Alanna Berger, vice president; Diana Kuhns, treasurer; Tammy Cassel, secretary; Ken Miller, At-large member; Dale Schauer, At-large member; Don Anklam, At-large member.

"I have the pleasure of working with a dedicated group of men and woman. As a board, we'll work hard to present the community with the best Pride we can put on," Walker pledges.

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Guest Comments

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"Enjoyed our stay, felt like we were at home. Breakfast was delicious."

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The Rose Room - This room expresses love for the natural beauty that roses bring to the world. This room has a full sized bed and a day bed on the second floor. $129

February 16

The Kinsey Sicks Inspired by Better Midler

"It's all Bette Midler's fault," Irwin Keller, aka Winnie, tells Central Voice. Winnie is from the enormously popular The Kinsey Sicks. The sought-after a cappella group appears at the Strand-Capital York Feb. 16, 7:30 pm. Tickets: 717-946-1111. Their performance benefits Common Roads, a central Pennsylvania organization helping glbtqa youth and their supporters.

In 1993, four guys went to a Bette Midler concert in drag as The Andrews Sisters. They thought (who wouldn't?) the house would be filled with Midler look-a-likes and drag divas. It wasn't. And on that night were born The Kinsey Sicks.

"We were the only ones in drag at a Bette Midler concert, except Midler!" exclaims Winnie.

By the end of the evening, they had been asked by some concert goers to do a show at their party as The Andrews Sisters. "We initially thought 'no,' because none of us could sing," Winnie says. On the way home they learned that each had some singing experience. They started planning the show right then and there.

Mickey Rooney and Judy Garland couldn't have done better with their "Gee kids, let's put on a show!" moxie. The group uses no outside material, writing all of their half parody, half original show tunes themselves. "We're constantly writing new material," Winnie says.

And for well over a decade, The Kinsey Sicks, America's Favorite Dragapella Beautyshop Quartet, have served up a feast of music and comedy to audiences across the United States. Combining award winning *a cappella* singing, sharp satire and over-the-top drag, they've developed a large and loyal following.

In 1994, The Kinsey Sicks drew a large and enthusiastic crowd at their first public performance on a street corner in San Francisco's Castro District. Since then, The Kinsey Sicks have produced and performed full-length theatrical productions around the country in such prestigious venues as the Herbst Theatre in San Francisco, the Nordstrom Recital Hall in Seattle, the Ogden Theatre in Denver, the Colony Theatre in South Beach, and the Wheeler Opera Hall in Aspen. They have packed the houses with shows such as "The Balled Sopranos," "Motel Sicks: A Dragapella Summer Vacation," "Everything But the Kitsch 'n'Synch" and "GreatesTits," all of which premiered at San Francisco's New Conservatory Theatre Center.

In 2001, the girls produced and starred in their critically acclaimed Off-Broadway hit, "DRAGAPELLA! Starring the Kinsey Sicks" at New York's legendary Studio 54. That production received a nomination for a Lucille Lortel award (the Off-Broadway Tony) as Best Musical of 2001 and a Drama Desk Award nomination for Best Lyrics.

The Kinseys Sicks have been profiled on national television, including on "20/20" and "CBS Early Show with Bryant Gumbel," and were the subjects of a lengthy cover feature in the arts section of the New York Times. (That article is posted on this website as well.) They have won numerous *a cappella* awards and have recorded five CDs: *Dragapella*, *Boyz 2 Girlz*, *Sicks in the City*, *I Wanna Be a Republican*, and *Oy Vey in a Manger: Christmas Carols and Other Jewish Music.*

In 2006, the Kinsey Sicks performed an extended engagement at the Las Vegas Hilton. In addition, their first feature film, "Kinsey Sicks: I Wanna Be a Republican," premiered at the 30th San Francisco International Gay and Lesbian Film Festival and is now available on DVD.

The Boyz Behind the Girlz

When the group began in 1993, its founders were a group of refugees from successful careers as professionals and activists. Original member Ben Schatz ("Rachel") is a Harvard- trained civil rights lawyer, former Director of the national lesbian Medical Association. Schatz created the first national AIDS legal project and authored Clinton's HIV policy during the 1992 presidential campaign. Irwin Keller ("Winnie") is a University of Chicago-trained lawyer and linguist and former director of the AIDS Legal Referral Panel of the San Francisco Bay Area. Keller authored Chicago's gay rights ordinance, passed into law in 1989. In 2004, the group was joined by fierce actor/singer/designer Jeff Manabat in the role of Trixie. In 2007, the role of Trampolina was taken over by hilarious newcomer, Charles Romaine.

Save the date!
February 2, 2008

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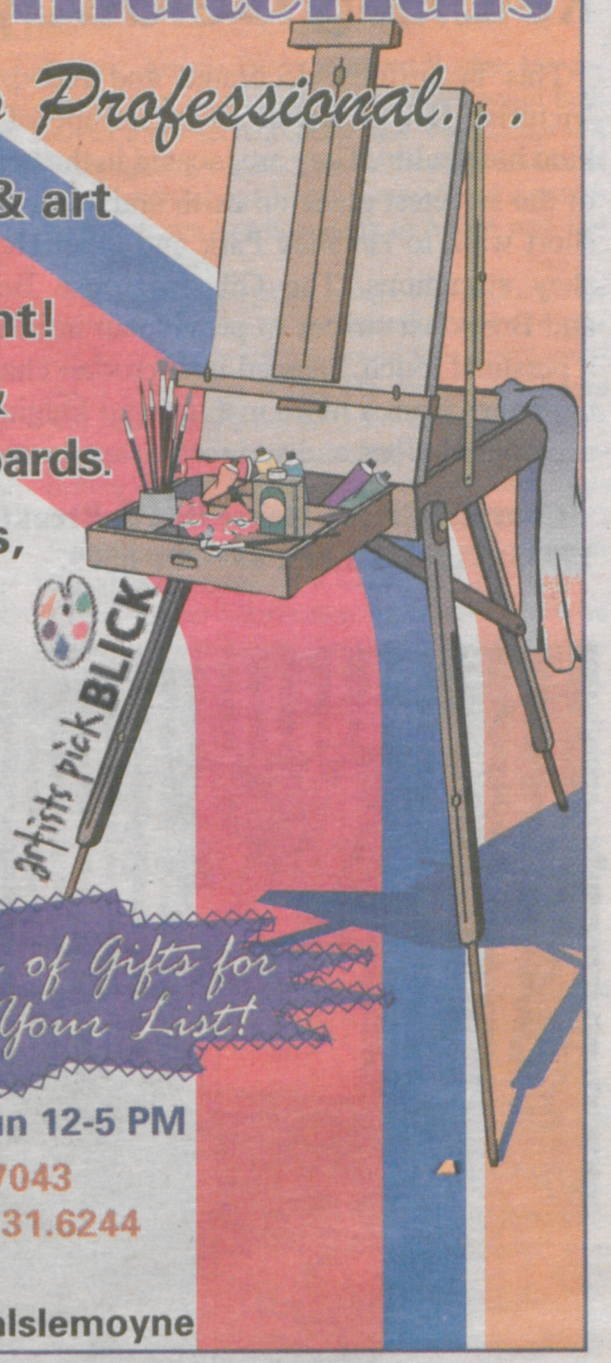

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Art Assoc. of Harrisburg Announces Winter Classes

Always renowned for the high quality of the art classes offered each semester, The Art Association of Harrisburg is outdoing itself with the 2008 Winter Semester.

Starting the week of Jan.7, AAH will offer an expanded range of pottery and sculpture classes in the studios in Reservoir Park, as well as a diverse selection of courses for children and adults at the 21 North Front Street location.

Faculty

James H.Tyler-Turban joins the AAH Faculty as the new instructor of Advanced Glazing Techniques on Wednesday evenings. Turban, a graduate of Harrisburg Area Community College, has his own ceramics studio in Millerstown. Jerald Phoenix's popular wheel pottery classes will begin the first week of February, a month later than the other classes. Sean Grey continues as instructor of Basic Pottery. Lilly Winger, who holds her BFA from Ohio University, is the new teacher of Clay for Kids. Sculpture offerings include Soft Stone Carving with James Youngman, and Wood and Metal Sculpture with Rich Gribble.

Drawing Classes

Drawing classes will include Basic Drawing with Maaike Heitkonig, Portraiture with Kim Krammes-Stone, and Life Study Workshop with Julie Dlugolecki as monitor. Painting courses include: Basic Oil with Jonathan Frazier, Basic Acrylic with Kathy Busillo, Basic Watercolour with Richard Michaelian, Still Life with William Kocher, and Depicting Wildlife with Don Phillips. Collage is taught by Linda Benton-McCloskey, with Michael Reed teaching silver-smithing in Jewelry Workshop.

Children's Classes

Childrens' classes include Art for Kids and Drawing and Painting for Kids, ages 5-7, with Nelly Seitz; Multi-Media for Teens for ages 10-15 with Brook Lauer; Junior Drawing and Painting with Nelly Seitz; Cartooning with Randall Miller III; and Fantasy Art with Courtland Murray.

All the classes are posted on the AAH website in the newsletter section, along with a printable registration form, at www.artassocofhbg.com. Scholarships are available for students with financial need. Call 717-236-1432.

Guggenheim Curator to Juror 80th Annual International Exhibition

The Art Association of Harrisburg is now accepting digital and slide entries for the 80th Annual Juried Exhibition, slated for May 10 through June 12. The deadline for entries is February 28. All media is eligible. The juror for the exhibition is Nat Trotman, Assistant Curator for the Guggenheim Museum in New York City. Prize monies for the show will total $2400, with a $600 Best-of-Show Award.

Artists may enter two works for the show st $12.50 per entry. The entries may either be on CD or in 35mm slide format. Artists may send a SASE to The Art Association of Harrisburg at 21 N. Front St.,Harrisburg,PA 17101, for a prospectus, or they may email the AAH Curator Terrie Hosey at terrie@artassocofhbg.com for more information. Call 717-236-1432 with any questions.

CHRISTIANE DAVID GALLERY Presents:

"All that inspires" January 4, 2008

Christiane David Gallery will be exhibiting a patchwork of different style of works, from her landscapes to flowers to abstracts. This month will be dedicated to her enchanted world of color.

"The other side of the mirror" February 1, 2008

Christiane will be exhibiting original abstract oils that she has created in Lancaster and in New York. She will invite you to experience her inner world through colors and textures.

142 North Prince Street
Lancaster, PA 17603
717.293.0809

Gallery hours: Tuesday through Saturday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. First Friday of every month: 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Closed Sun & Mon & all major holidays.

NYC Schools to Teach Respect for All

By Michael Lavens

Anti-LGBT bullying in New York City's public schools remains a serious problem which local lawmakers and activists continue to address. The Dignity in All Schools Act, which the City Council passed in 2004 despite Mayor Michael Bloomberg's veto, has yet to be implemented. The issue remains a rather contentious one as my article in the Blade this week indicates. The 2009 mayoral election (and posturing ahead of it) remains the underlying backstory to almost anything that comes out of City Hall these days [Call me a cynic if you will!]. But this issue remains arguably one that should transcend politics because students well-being and potentially lives remain at stake.

New York City Council Speaker Christine Quinn announced a new initiative to protect LGBT students in the city's public schools from harassment and other bullying based on their sexual orientation and gender identity or expression.

The plan, already in effect, is called Respect for All and has been endorsed by Mayor Michael Bloomberg and Schools Chancellor Joel Klein. It provide two-day training sessions and other professional development workshops to teams of teachers and counselors at more than 700 middle and high schools across the city. Workshop curriculum is based on recommendations of the Gay, Lesbian & Straight Educators Network, the LGBT Community Center and other organizations.

Respect for All is a joint initiative with the Department of Education (DOE) and contains three broad objectives: to promote inclusion, to serve a resource to the LGBTQ students and to serve as a resource to faculty.

Quinn said DOE has already begun to implement the initiative this month. She added Respect for All sends a message that both the City Council and New York City government will not tolerate bullying against LGBT students.

"We think it's a great step forward," Quinn said. "We think it will be a really good resource for our schools."

Bloomberg readily agreed in a statement.

"Our administration has zero tolerance for

continued on page 12

Non-traditional Couples & GLBT Individuals Need Non-traditional Legal Advice

Leo L. Dunn, DUNN LAW

This is my answer when asked why I am opening a law practice dedicated solely to estate planning considerations with an emphasis on helping gay, lesbian and other non-traditional couples. Of course, no answer is simple.

Unique Issues

Non-traditional couples require non-traditional legal advice because they have unique issues and considerations that are not specifically protected by our general laws. Traditional couples, meaning a married husband-wife with children (or planning to have children), have protections built into the law at all levels. If they do no legal planning, the law sets forth who makes medical decisions in the event of incapacity, how their assets are to be divided if they divorce, how assets transfer if one dies (differs based on whether there are children), and how assets transfer if both die simultaneously. These couples do not actually need to plan if they are willing to let their assets be divided according to the current legal arrangement. For many traditional couples, the law's provisions closely mirror their intentions. For these couples, having a will and estate plan allow them to better protect their loved ones from tax considerations, increases the speed of distribution, and reduces intrafamily concerns.

Financial Protections

Non-traditional couples and individuals, meaning non-married whether gay, lesbian, straight, or bisexual, cannot financially protect their partners and other loved ones by relying on state probate laws. They must put other legal documentation in place if they wish to have their partner: make medical decisions for them in the case of an emergency, cared for in the same assisted living home when elderly, or inherit their assets. In fact, blood relations can bar partners from hospital rooms and nursing homes entirely if there is no power of attorney in place naming the partner. As for asset distribution upon death, horror stories abound. Even families who have accepted their loved ones "choices" often become antagonistic towards a deceased's partner once money becomes an issue. Each asset titled in the deceased's name is transferred by intestacy to blood kin if there is no will – even if the partner helped pay for the asset. Think of a couple's home titled in only one name, but which the other partner contributed half the mortgage amount each month. The blood family can argue, often persuasively, that such contribution was simply rent or a gift to the title owner. To counter, the partner must wage a legal battle – often loosing.

Understanding Attorney

Non-traditional couples can avoid the pitfalls of the law by working closely with an attorney who understands that these pitfalls exist. Unfortunately, very few traditional attorneys understand the issues that a GLBT individual or couple bring to the table in preparing an estate plan. This is one of the areas where it is imperative that the person(s) requesting a will feel totally comfortable in explaining their individual situation to their attorney. Attorneys who are otherwise excellent estate planners often cannot understand this concept. One highly-skilled estate planning and elder law attorney I personally met with advised me that "gays and lesbians have no unique issues." This person went on to explain to me in detail that starting a practice based on GLBT clientele in central Pennsylvania was a bad idea. She succeeded in confirming my impression that such a practice is needed.

What to Do

So what should a non-traditional couple do to protect themselves and their loved ones? First, take stock of your relationship and your assets. What would happen if you parted? How would bills, pets and property be divided? Do you have any children to consider? What do you want to happen if either or both of you die? Who do you want to make decisions if you become too ill to communicate? Do you want wills that mirror each other, or do you want each person's will unknown to the other?

Personal Issues

An attorney can help walk you through these decisions while you add information regarding personal issues that may impact any given one. You need to enlighten your attorney to family considerations – such as that fundamentalist sister-in-law who is always pressing her husband for money. Once you have decided on what you want to happen and who you want to make decisions if you cannot, you need to inventory your major assets from houses to life insurance and pension plans. Now you can start planning.

A word of caution before we proceed with an example: Pennsylvania and several other states have Defense of Marriage Acts and do not recognize same-sex marriages or civil commitments performed in other states. Thus, couples having such ceremonies performed in other states cannot assume it provides any advantage in a Pennsylvania court. In fact, based on some Pennsylvania case law, it might actually be a detriment depending on the individual circumstances and court in which the couple may be litigating an issue concerning their status.

Example

One example is a 50-something gay male couple with no children, both having extensive blood family, and both having enjoyed good incomes over their careers. They have been together 20 years. They own a house, both have life insurance and pensions, one owns bank stock, the other has CDs, and they have filled their house with unique antiques. They each want the other to make financial and medical decisions based on their wishes if they cannot. Each wants the other partner to inherit all if they die first. One wants any residue to go to charity while the other wants to have it go to their nieces and nephews. If they part ways, they want to divide things equally and as amicably as possible.

Cohabitation Agreement

To protect their decisions under Pennsylvania law, this couple needs to have a cohabitation agreement to take the place of the Divorce Code; individual living wills, individual health care directives, and individual durable springing powers of attorney to take the place of the Court naming next-of-kin or a guardian to make decisions; and individual wills and possibly a trust to allow for the individual differences in how the estate's residue is handled to take the place of the Probate Code's intestacy provisions. The titling of property and who are the named beneficiaries on life insurance and pension documents needs to be evaluated and changed as necessary. The couple may also want to arrange for nursing home and assisted living care if needed and have a Disposition of Remains directive in place.

Tax Considerations

In addition to all of these legal considerations regarding decision-making and asset transfer, a non-traditional couple's estate plan needs to take different tax considerations into account. Non-traditional couples will not be able to take advantage of the federal government's tax breaks for married couples, but some relief may be had through careful titling and trust creation.

I believe that central Pennsylvania needs more attorneys who, whether gay or straight, have the empathy to understand the unique circumstances that non-traditional couples and GLBT individuals bring to an estate planning situation. One size legal advice does not fit all. Thus, a non-traditional couple needs an attorney who understands their unique needs and listens carefully to their decisions in order to help them protect each other.

Leo L. Dunn is an independent Harrisburg-based attorney who practices estate planning with an emphasis on meeting the concerns of gay and lesbian clients.Contact:717-503-1207; leodunn@dunnlaw.org

Lesbian Notions:
Changing Family Values

By Libby Post

We were in Provincetown for a much-needed vacation this year the week after "Family Week." There wasn't much evidence of the thousands of kids and parents who made the pilgrimage. No broken strollers strewn about like urban detritus. No echoes of children crying. All that was left were the contents of cash registers of local merchants and talk about how difficult it was to maneuver past all the strollers in tight store aisles.

The national LGBT family advocacy group, Family Pride, sponsors Family Week each year. This year, R Family Vacations got into the act as well. R Family is run by Kelli O'Donnell, Rosie's wife, and produced all the large-scale events in P-town that week - dinners, cabarets, etc.

Oh, how things have changed! I remember when we were quite tentative talking about our families. We didn't want to draw too much attention out of fear of legal retribution. Many of us in the community weren't looking to have families in the traditional sense of kids and parents. I, for one, fell into parenthood, since my partner had a child from a previous, straight marriage. My biological clock was never wound, let alone ticking, so having kids was never on my radar.

It's only been in the last decade or so that our families have really gotten onto anyone else's radar other than our own. It took until 1997 for the first state - New Jersey - to expressly authorize adoptions by lesbian or gay couples. No, the legislature didn't do it. The courts did, in a case called "Gallucio v. New Jersey."

Ten years later, lesbian and gay families in New Jersey - some from adoption or foster care, some biological in nature - now also have a civil unions law that is supposed to extend all the right and responsibilities of familydom on them as well. Given how difficult it has been for lesbian and gay couples who have been civil-unionized in the Garden State to exact benefits from their employers, I'm not convinced that those families will be fully covered by the law either.

But at least lesbian and gay couples can adopt and be foster parents in New Jersey. Florida still has an outright ban, as do Utah and Mississippi, only theirs is more like equal opportunity discrimination - only married couples are allowed to adopt, period.

Utah also forbids unmarried couples from becoming foster parents, while Nebraska has a policy that explicitly prohibits us from being foster parents.

Thankfully, many more states do not take such a draconian view regarding our families. California, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New York, Connecticut, Illinois, Indiana, Pennsylvania, Vermont, and the District of Columbia also have policies or laws on the books that implicitly or explicitly state that sexual orientation cannot be a basis for preventing gay and lesbian people from adopting.

Given the number of children in need in this country, it is time for many of the country's adoption agencies and county departments of social services to take their heads out of their collective butts and start recruiting lesbian and gay foster and adoptive parents.

According to a recent report by The Williams Institute of the UCLA School of Law entitled "Adoption and Foster Care by Gay and Lesbian Parents in the United States," there are plenty of us to go around. Using the 2000 U.S. Census, the National Survey of Family Growth (2002), and the Adoption and Foster Care Analysis and Reporting System (2004), the report estimates that there are two million or so gay, lesbian, and bisexual people interested in adopting. Given that half a million children currently live in foster care and more than 100,000 of those children are awaiting adoption, making foster parenting and adoption available to lesbians, gay men, and bisexuals who want children could solve this national problem overnight.

Right now, there are approximately 65,000 adopted children living with a lesbian or gay parent, accounting for 4 percent of all the adopted children in the country. An additional 14,000 foster kids are living with us as well - we're already raising 3 percent of those kids. Despite the histrionics of groups like Focus on the Family and the American Family Association, we make perfectly good parents. Reputable, professional organizations such as the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, the American Medical Association, the Child Welfare League of America, and the North American Council on Adoptable Children all agree that sexual orientation has absolutely no bearing on one's ability to raise a child.

Gay or straight, some of us make good parents, and some of us don't. Who we sleep with has absolutely nothing to do with our ability to raise children. While many straight people don't necessarily plan to have children, it is a deliberate decision that lesbian and gay couples do not enter into lightly.

But we do enter it with a lot of love.

Libby Post is the founding chair of the Empire State Pride Agenda and a political commentator on public radio, on the Web, and in print media. She can be reached care of this publication or at LesbianNotions@qsyndicate.com.

NY Schools continued

intolerance and we have worked to ensure that this important value—respect for others—is a part of everything we do," he said. "This new initiative will bolster our efforts to ensure that every school offers an inclusive environment and teaches the importance of tolerance and respect."

Klein announced the initiative to principals in a letter last week. He added the DOE remains committed to tackling harassment against LGBT students in the city's public schools.

"Promoting respect for diversity is central to our mission as educators and leaders," Klein said in a statement.

Phyllis Steinberg, president of the New York City chapter of Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians & Gays (PFLAG), praised the initiative as a positive step toward creating a safer environment for the city's LGBT students.

"All children need a safe and secure educational environment in which to thrive [and] to ensure they achieve their full potential," she said.

New York Association for Gender Rights Advocacy chair Pauline Park is skeptical that that DOE is serious about helping its LGBT population. Park and Steinberg largely spearheaded a coalition of activists who lobbied the City Council to pass the Dignity in All Schools Act (DASA) in 2004. The bill protected all New York City K-12 public school students, faculty, volunteers and visitors from bullying, harassment and discrimination on the basis of real or perceived race, national origin, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity or disability.

Bloomberg maintained the bill violated state law and vetoed it (the New York State Senate struck down a proposed statewide DASA bill last year). Quinn, then-Speaker Gifford Miller (D-Upper East Side) and other Council members blasted the mayor's opposition to DASA, and the City Council overrode Bloomberg's veto in a 44-3 vote. Because the legality of the bill is still contested, it has not been implemented.

Park remains critical about the DOE because, she said, it doesn't even follow existing state laws that mandate it fully disclose incidents of violence in general. An audit by New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson, who will likely mount his own 2009 mayoral campaign, of 10 city high schools found the DOE did not in fact fully disclose violence and other incidents as mandated under state law. The law doesn't require schools to specify whether incidents are LGBT-related.

Thompson's spokesperson, Jeff Simmons, pointed out that the Comptroller supports DASA. He added his office remains "extremely troubled" by the DOE's apparent failure to report these incidents.

"The flawed reporting makes it difficult for parents, the public and government officials to honestly assess whether a school is safe," Thompson concluded.

Brian Ellner, senior counsel to schools chancellor Klein, defended the DOE's record, saying that the agency remains committed to combating anti-LGBT bullying in city's schools.

"The Chancellor has made it abundantly clear to make sure every school system is safe for all kids," Ellner said. "The commitment is absolute."

Quinn remained confident in Respect for All.

"[We] look forward to continuing to work with the DOE and the [Bloomberg] administration to provide school leaders with the tools to create positive, supportive environments," Quinn said.

Friends of Positive Opportunities,

Thank you for your support of Positive Opportunities over the years.

Please know that the locally produced 30-minute documentary film "Second Lazarus: Funding Hope & Healing in South Central PA's HIV/AIDS Community" on Comcast On Demand (free). If you have access to that service, please take a moment to visit that channel and screen the film.

I had the pleasure of producing the film with the help of many collaborators from the community. Each "hit" on the film indicates community support for our mission. The film is funded by Cable Positive, Tony Cox Community Fund, The AIDS Fund of The Foundation for Enhancing Communities.

Best wishes for a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!

Frank

Frank Pizzoli
Founder
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Thanks

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Compare Mainstream Democratic Presidential Candidates Proposals for Universal Health Care

By Len Rodberg

Physicians for a National Health Program

The mainstream Democratic candidates for President - John Edwards, Barack Obama, Hillary Clinton - have each put forward their proposals for "affordable quality health coverage for all." The three Democrats' proposals, while purporting to provide "universal health care", will not actually achieve this goal:

•None of these plans offers a realistic way of containing the rising cost of health care.

•All will add additional funds to an already too-costly system.

•None will truly provide universal access to care.

Only a single payer national health insurance program can actually achieve affordable, workable universal access to health care.

The three proposals share a set of common elements:

•The private insurance system would remain in place, with no fundamental change in the way it operates. Those who currently have insurance would not experience any change in how they are insured or the coverage they have.

• Large employers would be required to provide insurance for their employees or (in the case of Edwards and Obama) pay into a fund to subsidize insurance for their employees.

•Everyone (for Edwards and Clinton) or children (for Obama) would be required to have insurance, either through their employer or pur-

continued on page 13

Pinnacle Health System continued

AIDS Fund matches what is raised by local community partnerships at a ratio of $1 to every $2 of local funds as part of the Challenge Grant program. Last year, area service organizations were awarded more than $100,000 by The AIDS Fund of South Central Pennsylvania.

The Second Annual Honoree Awards Luncheon is sponsored by Capital Blue Cross, and involves the generous participation of volunteers, corporate sponsors, various non-profit organizations and community residents. All proceeds from the luncheon will be distributed to local HIV/AIDS service organizations that are dedicated to HIV/AIDS education, prevention and helping to improve the quality of life for individuals and families affected by the disease.

For further information, contact Shireen Farr at the Foundation for Enhancing Communities at (717) 236-5040 or via email: shireen@tfec.org. For media inquiries and interviews, please contact Kirsten Nicole Harris at (717) 503-5488; www.tfec.org

Healthcare Proposals continued

chased on their own (an "individual mandate"). Income-related subsidies would be provided through the tax system.

•Insurers would be required to offer coverage to everyone ("guaranteed issue") without limits on pre-existing conditions, and without "large premium differences based on age, gender, or occupation" (from Clinton's plan).

•All would make available a "choice" of private insurance plans, as well as a public insurance option modeled on Medicare. (They use the language of the insurance industry -- and Hillary Clinton uses it in the name of her plan itself, the "American Health Choices Plan" -- suggesting that what consumers want is a choice of plan.)

•All claim to achieve cost savings through expanded use of information technology, an emphasis on prevention, and better chronic care management.

What's Missing?

•Since multiple payers would remain (even if one of them might be a public payer), few of the savings and simplifications that are possible with a singe payer can be achieved.

•Consumers must purchase insurance, but no limits are proposed on what insurers can charge them.

•No regulations are proposed that would assure the adequacy of benefits or that would affect either the restrictions that insurers now impose on the choice of doctor and hospital or the way they handle, and deny, claims.

•There is no simplification of the complex and wasteful private insurance system with its co-pays, deductibles, exclusions, and claim denials.

•There is no assurance of a "level playing field" between the public insurance plan and the private ones. Insurance company advertising and targeted marketing will still be used to promote private plans over public and to avoid the poor and the sick. At the same time, the private insurers will surely insist on the additional subsidies they already enjoy in the Medicare Advantage program.

•Nothing is proposed that would control the rising cost of health care. (The measures they suggest to achieve savings may well increase costs rather than reduce them. In any case, the possibility for savings is speculative at this point.)

Are Plans Politically Realisitc"?

•The insurance companies will resist guaranteed issue and community rating, as well as other requirements in some of the plans (e.g., Edwards would require that they spend at least 85% of their revenue on medical care).

•Business will resist a mandate that they purchase insurance. (In Massachusetts, they were unwilling to pay more than $295 per employee, and even objected to that small fee.)

•None of these plans improves the situation of those who currently have insurance. Thus they are unlikely to generate strong popular support.

•The proposed subsidies -- amounting to about $2,400 per uninsured individual -- are about half the cost of purchasing group insurance today. Millions will continue to find insurance unaffordable. (The attempt to impose an individual mandate in Massachusetts is already showing that, as long as the program continues to rely on private insurers, very large subsidies will be needed if coverage is to be both affordable and comprehensive; without such subsidies, either coverage will be limited, or it will be unaffordable.)

•Millions of Americans who are currently underinsured, and threatened with bankruptcy in the event of serious illness, will continue to be underinsured and insecure.

•These plans would add significantly to our overall spending on health care, already the highest in the world, with much of the additional spending going to insurance company administrative costs and profits.

None of these plans will truly provide universal access to care. They do not overcome the very significant deficiencies of private insurance. None assures the American people of comprehensive coverage, none offers a realistic way of containing the rising cost of health care, and all would add additional funds to an already too-costly system.

They are at best a diversion from the direction we should be going, toward the creation of a single national, publicly-funded insurance pool that can provide comprehensive, continuous, cost-effective coverage along with the budgetary tools needed to begin containing costs. Info: www.healthcare-now.org

International News continued

"It was 12:45 pm. I have never forgotten that time. I had to leave all my own things in my motherland and go into exile. It was intolerable. My train took me to Turkey, where I was able to register as a refugee at the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in Ankara. I had stopped praying by then.

When I fled to Turkey, I promised my God that I would continue my support for Iranian queers and that would be my form of worship. Three months after arriving in Turkey, my case was accepted, and two months later I was invited to Canadian Embassy in Ankara. Eight months later, here I am in Canada.

Homophobia runs deep into Iranian society. There are many gay and lesbian people in Iran, and they need your support. Contact: Arsham Parsi is the executive director of the Iranian Queer Organization (IRQO) based in Toronto. Check out www.irqo.net for more information or e-mail: arsham@irqo.net.

Government "Split" Over Homophobic Incitement Law

The English government's chief law officer does not support a new offence of incitement to hatred on the grounds of sexual orientation, according to a report in The Times.

Baroness Scotland, the Attorney General, has privately clashed with Justice Secretary Jack Straw over the proposals, which form part of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Bill which is before Parliament.

The Times reports that Baroness Scotland is concerned the homophobic incitement proposals will be blocked or watered down by the House of Lords, and she believes that existing legislation is sufficient to deal with the problem.

Saudi Arabia's Human Rights Record Causes Row in Britain

Saudi King Abdullah's visit to the United Kingdom has caused a row among activists and even politicians for the kingdom's human rights abuses.

Human rights activists and others, such as Conservative Party leader David Cameron, have used King Abdullah's recent state visit to the United Kingdom to highlight Saudi Arabia's less than stellar (to say the least) human rights record. The Policy Exchange used the king's trip to London to accuse the reclusive regime of providing British mosques with materials which allegedly urges among women, gays and other so-called enemies of Islam. The kingdom's persecution against gays and women are widely documented by Amnesty International and other human rights organizations across the world.

Rumsfeld Faces Torture Complaint

American and European rights groups filed a legal complaint in France accusing former U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld of responsibility for torture in Iraq and at Guantanamo Bay.

The complaint was filed with the Paris prosecutor's office as Rumsfeld arrived in France for a visit, according to the New York-based Center for Constitutional Rights, the Berlin-based European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights and two Paris-based groups, the International Federation of Human Rights and the League of Human Rights. The rights groups say their complaint could go forward because people suspected of torture can be prosecuted in France if they are on French soil.

Gay Mexican's Asylum Denied

The US Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit, based in New York City, has ruled in an unpublished decision that the current level of anti-gay persecution in Mexico is not sufficient to justify granting a withholding of removal for a gay immigrant who claimed to fear persecution if returned to that nation. The ruling, which affirmed a decision by the Board of Immigration Appeals (BIA), reversed what had seemed a trend toward granting the claims of sexual minority refugees from Mexico.

Earlier cases had focused on effeminate men, transvestites, and transsexuals, but the documentation of social hostility and police harassment of people perceived as gay or lesbian had appeared relatively strong in prior case law. In this new case, the court painted a sunnier picture. The court wrote that the applicant "does not argue that he will be singled out for persecution, but challenges the BIA's finding that there is no 'pattern or practice of persecution of' homosexual men in Mexico.' Our review of the record evidence leads us to conclude that substantial evidence supports the BIA's finding."

Citizens Bank

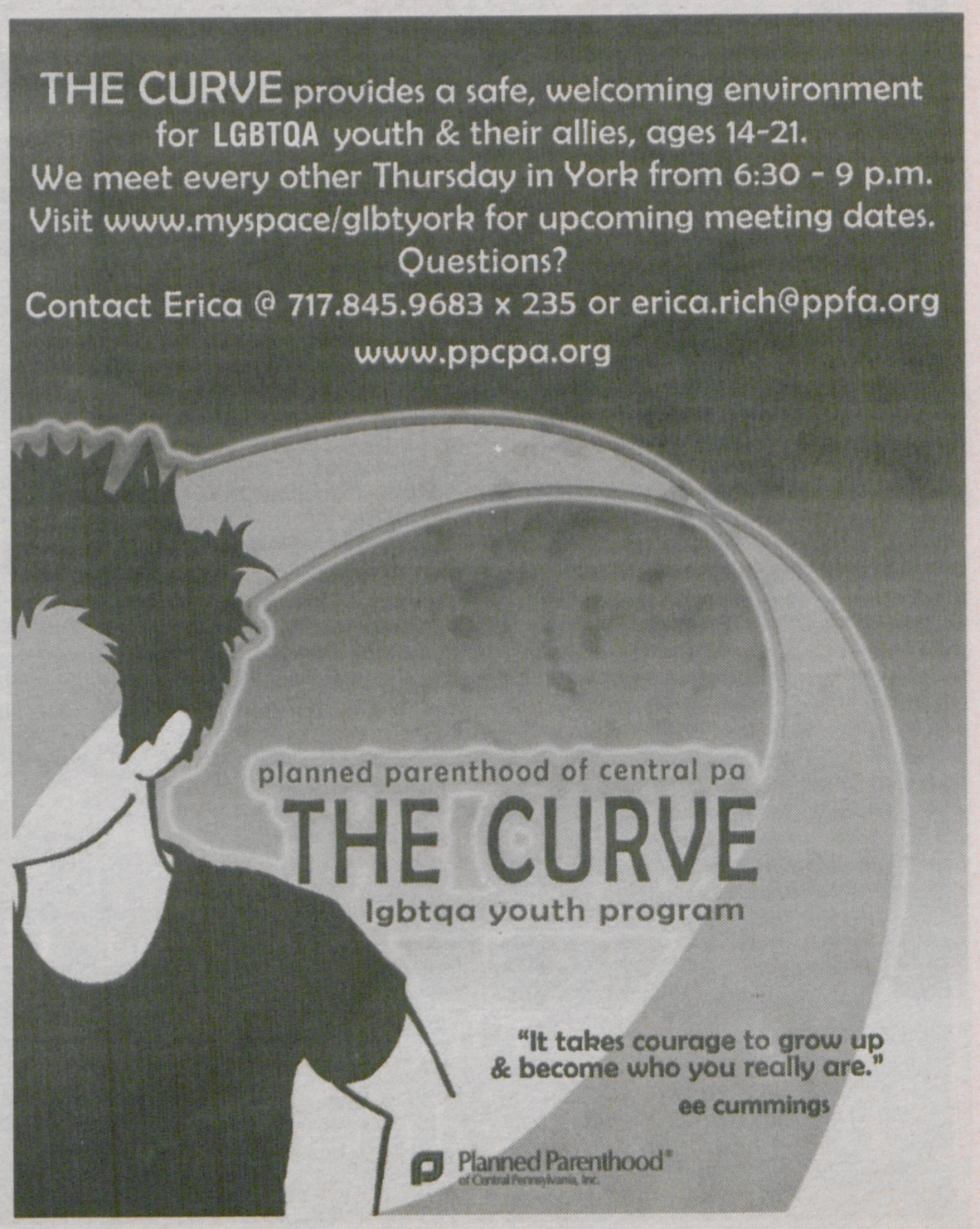
Citizens Bank Promotes 2 York Residents

Citizens Bank of Pennsylvania recently promoted Michael J. Black to Business Banking Officer from Branch Manager of the York Main branch. The bank also promoted Tina Raffensberger to Branch Manager of York Main, replacing Black.

As a Business Banking Officer, Black will assist businesses in the York region with annual revenues up to $10 million and have borrowing needs from $50,000 to $500,000. Black graduated from York Catholic High School and attended Stevens State School of Technology. He previously served as Branch Manager at York Main since 2004.

Black is involved in a number of community activities in the York area. He is on the board of the York City Redevelopment Authority and the York YMCA. He also serves on the board of the York County Chamber of Commerce, and is a member of the Downtown York Rotary Club. For his commitment and dedication to community service work, Black was recently selected as a finalist for the RBS Chairman's Awards for Community Excellence among RBS colleagues worldwide. He will attend an awards ceremony at the bank's Scotland headquarters in February 2008. Black resides in York, Pa.

Raffensberger began her career with Citizens Bank in 1995 as a teller. Throughout her 12 year career with Citizens, she has held a number of positions in the York area including teller, customer service representative, branch manager and mortgage originator. Before her promotion to branch manager at York Main, Raffensberger worked at the Delco Plaza branch. Raffensberger graduated from Spring Grove Senior High School. She has volunteered with the West York Boys Club as secretary and executive board member since 2005. Raffensberger resides in West York, Pa., with her husband of 16 years, Andrew, and their two sons, Nate and Alex.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FOOD

Trouble Reported at Vanity Fair Editor's Restaurant

Surveys consistently reveal everyone wants to run a restaurant. A task easier said than done.

The latest one to learn such is none other than Vanity Fair editor Graydon Carter. Elaine, of the long-famous "Elaine's" told VF freelance, "Tell Grayodn Carter he don't know how to run a restaurant."

Late in 2006, Carter and partners opened the Waverly Inn in the West Village to a limited clientele, called by insiders a neighborhood snack bar for movie stars, fashion designers and people who wear Belgian loafers. Tables at the Waverly Inn, 16 Bank Street at Waverly Place, are always packed.

Apparently, as reported, on March 28, 2007 the restaurant failed an inspection with the city's health department. They chalked up 38 violation points. It takes 28 points to fail the inspection. October 2007, the establishment was re-inspected and passed with a score of 22 points.

On the first inspection, the restaurant was cited for nine different violations, including "mildew buildup" inside an ice machine; "facility conditions conducive to the existence of pest life" (this had to do with debris and old equipment on the basement floor); and the absence of a sign at the bar instructing employees to wash their hands. And the restaurant was reprimanded for not having adequate warning signs regarding first aid for choking patrons and the effects of alcohol on pregnancy.

Violations were not significant enough to order a shutdown of the restaurant, according to health department spokesman, Geoffrey Cowley. "Once the restaurant score hits 75 points, the protocol is to determine whether a shutdown is in order," he said.

Carter told the NY Times, "I think this is probably part of the game, the kind of thing that all restaurants have to go through. They don't have health inspections at magazine offices. They probably should."

Buyer Beware: Natural & Organic Is Not the Same

By Deb Bixler

Many people think that natural and organic foods are the same. In fact they are different. "Natural" as a word has no legal definition, therefore its definition depends on the person or company writing the definition. In other words, when someone prints "natural" on a food label it means whatever the company or writer decides it means.

"Organic" on the other hand has strict government guidelines that the food must follow. To define organic in a short sentence is difficult because the government definition is an entire book. Basically organic means that a food item is not treated with chemicals, pesticides or other non-food additives at any point from planting to your table.

For readers who want pesticide and chemical free foods, organic is the safest bet. Natural foods may still be good choices, but you may not be able to trust the label. Always look at the ingredient list. The label is a marketing tool whereas the list of ingredients is should be factual.

Deb Bixler is a lifestyle coach and educator. Her mission is to make a difference in the way children eat now and as adults.

New Web Site for Those Helping Seniors

SAGE, Senior Acton in a Gay environment, recently launched a web site for service providers and advocates for glbt seniors. SageConnect is a free program that will:

•disseminate technical assistance, information and practical tools to support service and advocacy programs for LGBT seniors nationwide

•give service providers and advocates a way to continually communicate with colleagues across the country

•encourage collaboration and exchange among LGBT aging groups and advocates

SageConnect is a password-protected program - it is designed for service providers and advocates rather than the general public. All SageConnect participants can post resources to the site and participate in site discussions. Registration for SageConnect will happen through a simple on-line application process.

Agencies and organizations assisting glbt seniors are encouraged to contact http://www.sageconnect.net/join/

Imbolc — Feb. 1

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JAN 11 2008 9:00P JASON NEWMAN TRIO
JAN 12 2008 9:00P DJ BEN FREEMAN - SPINNING JAZZY HIP-HOP, TRIBAL, HOUSE, AND REGGAE.
JAN 18 2008 9:00P CENTRAL JAZZ
JAN 19 2008 9:00P 61 SOUTH
JAN 26 2008 9:00P JUNKYARD SAINTS
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Winter Care for Your Pets

When the temperatures start falling below freezing your pet will require some extra care. The following is a list of things to keep in mind to keep your pet happy, healthy and safe during extremely cold weather.

Anti-freeze

Animals love the taste of anti-freeze and may try to lick up spills in your garage or driveway. Anti-freeze is especially poisonous to your pet and you should be sure to clean up spills thoroughly.

Cats under Your Car

Cats often seek shelter in warm places during cold weather. They may crawl under your car or even into the engine compartment to warm themselves. Before starting your car in cold weather you could open the hood, slap the side or even sound the horn to frighten the cat from under the hood. Starting your car with your pet is dangerous and it is possible that they could be caught in the fan or one of the belts causing serious injury.

Frostbite

Even though your pet has a fur coat it is still possible for them to get frostbite. Cats and small dogs should be kept indoors during extremely cold weather. Walks and exercise times should be shortened to minimize the risk of injury.

Rock Salt & De-icers

Most of the products used to remove ice and snow from your drive will irritate a pet's paws. You can protect your pets paws by rubbing them with baby oil and then sprinkling them with baby powder to help protect the pads. You may also consider rinsing their paws off when they come in from outside. Dog boots can also be used to protect your dogs paws.

Diet

Your pet's eating patterns may change during cold weather. If your pet is outdoors it will need more calories to help it produce enough body heat to stay warm. The opposite is true for a pet that is now staying indoors. Their more relaxed life will require less calories. Check with your veterinarian for a diet suitable for your pet.

Water

If your pet is outdoors during cold weather be sure that they have a supply of water that isn't frozen. Water is important for the pets survival even during cold weather. Changing water several times a day ensures them intervals to have access to fresh water.

Proper Shelter from Cold

It is important to have proper shelter for your pet during the cold winter months. Cats and small dogs should be kept inside during the winter months. Large dogs can survive outdoors if provided with the proper shelter. Shelters should be large enough for the dog to move around but shouldn't be more than three times the size of the animal. A shelter too large will be hard for them to keep warm with their body heat. The shelter must be dry. It helps to elevate the floor and provide a clean dry blanket. Covering the opening of the shelter with a flap also helps retain their body heat. During extremely cold weather all pets should be moved indoors to provide them some comfort from the cold.

Special Holiday Hazards

Christmas Trees

Secure your Christmas tree during the holidays. Cats love to climb and dogs may bump the tree and knock it over. Securing the tree properly can help prevent accidents and make the holidays happier for everyone.

Holiday Plants

Many of the plants used to decorate your home for the holidays are poisonous for your pet. Keep plants such as mistletoe, poinsettias and holly out of your pet's reach.

Ornaments

Many ornaments pose a danger for your pet. Broken glass ornaments, icicles, yarn, ribbon, and angel hair can get caught in your pet's mouth and throat and cause possible suffocation.

Candy & Chocolate

Giving too much candy to a pet can give it a stomach ache and cavities. Too much chocolate could be fatal for your pet. Chocolate contains theobromine, a chemical that is toxic to your pets.

Electric Cords

Many of your decorations for the holidays require electricity and this means more exposed cords around the house. Puppies and kittens are especially interested in chewing and should be watched more closely to prevent electrocution.

Pine Needles

As Christmas trees dry and lose their needles they fall to the floor and may become interesting to your pet. They should never be allowed to chew or swallow the needles. It is possible for needles to puncture the stomach or the intestines if ingested by your pet.

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You Gotta Love it – They Did

"Sex Scandal Rocks Famed Megachurch" blasted a recent headline. Archbishop Earl Paulk's, the 80-year-old leader of Atlanta's mega-church Cathedral of the Holy Spirit at Chapel Hill Harvester Church allegedly slept with his brother's wife and fathered a child by her. His secret was revealed by a court-ordered paternity test. Living proof is 34-year-old D.E. Paulk, known publicly as the archbishop's nephew. From press reports, this is the cleric's third sex scandal.

Bal Masque Set for Feb. 2

Celebrate Mardi Gras at Appalachian Brewery Feb. 2 at the 2008 Bal Masque presented by The Art Association of Harrisburg.

Dance to the Cajun sound of "Funk n'Gumbo" in the main area of the Abbey Bar. Enjoy the Gypsy Swing music of "The Gadjo Playboys" in the Gallery's reserved seating area.

Open seating tickets are $35. Reserve seats are $65. Decorations will be true carnival, colorful and glitzy.

Silent Auction

Marvel and then bid wildly for the great Silent Auction packages and gift baskets. Enjoy ABC's top-of-the-line beers and other beverages from the cash bar. Get your photo taken and your fortune told.

Costumes

Wear your favorite or craziest Mardi Gras costume. Guests will do the costume judging at this Bal with Mardi Gras beads.

All proceeds from the Bal Masque benefit the Art Association of Harrisburg education and exhibition programs. Info: 717-236-1432; www.artassocofhbg.com to enjoy photos of last year's Bal.

Previous Bal Masque Revelers

Carrie Wissler-Thomas (Marie Antoinette)

Carrie Wissler-Thomas, Association curator **Terrie Hosey**, and **Martha Brown**

Dave Morrison (Leonardo DiCaprio) with **Barabra Skelly**

Art Association of Harrisburg Board Member **Nancy O'Halloran** with **S. Geoffrey McDowell** (Led Zeppelin's Robert Plant)

Flapper **Tracey Meloni** and her gent **Bob Meloni**

FRIDAYS
In February
coffee houses across the region will celebrate with Common Roads.

Open Mic Nights will feature live entertainment, talented artists, door prizes, raffle items and of course, great coffee!

Square One, Lancaster - Friday, Feb. 1st
Courthouse Commons, Carlisle - Friday, Feb. 8th
George Street Cafe, Millersville - Friday, Feb. 15th
Cornerstone Coffee House (Tecport), Harrisburg - Friday, Feb. 29th

Coordinated in partnership with area GSA's (Gay Straight Alliances) of local colleges and universities. "Friday's" are open to the public, and donations are always appreciated.

For More Information: 717.920.9534
www.commonroads.org

100% of the proceeds directly fund the mission of Common Roads

THE KINSEY SICKS

Saturday, February 16th

VIP* Tickets: $100 per ticket
*includes orchestra seating, After-Show panel discussion w/the Kinsey's, VIP access to AFTER-PARTY @ XS, and many extras!

Orchestra: $45 per ticket
Rear - $35 per ticket
Balcony* (students only) - $10
*admittance only with valid student ID & balcony ticket

100% proceeds directly fund the mission of Common Roads.

To Purchase Tickets: Please Contact The Strand Capitol Box Office: 717.846.1111 or visit: www.strandcapitol.org

Common Roads and Club XS present
Winter hearts Ball
Special Guest DJ Kuhmeleon
Special Guest Performance by Rachel Panay
*included in Kinsey Sicks VIP Ticket Cost

Also
Saturday, February 16th
$10.00* Cover Charge
Love to Dance!
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Celebrate Love!
10:00 pm* to 2:00 am
(immediately following Kinsey Sicks performance at the Strand Theater)

XS
36 West 11th Avenue
York, PA 17404
Phone: 717-846-6969

For More Info call Common Roads: 717-920-9534

Sunday, February 17th
Limited Seating!! Call now!
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Private Movie Viewing of
THE ADVENTURES OF Priscilla QUEEN OF THE DESERT

Pre-scilla Social: 3:00 / Showing Time: 4:15 PM
Pre-scilla & Movie: $15.00
Allen Theater, 36 East Main Street, Route 422, Annville, PA 17003
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www.commonroads.org

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First Concert Jan. 11-13 featuring "Tango Meets the Blues" with Piazzolla's Concerto for Bandoneon with South America's leading bandoneon player Marcelo Nisinman and Harmonica Concerto, composed and performed by the master of the blues harmonica, Corky Siegel.

The shows also showcase Koehne's Elevator Music and Respighi's The Pines of Rome.

Fulton Opera House, 12 North Prince Street, Downtown Lancaster, PA. Tickets $23-$58. Info: 717-397-7425 or www.thefulton.org.

Corky Siegel

Yuliya Gorenman

Marcelo Nisinman

Lancaster Events

Searching for Beauty: A Visual Questionnaire

Until January 25
Pennsylvania College of Art & Design
Lancaster, PA

Fine Art Exhibit: In Tuscany

Until January 26
Gallery dePaul
Lancaster, PA

The Ice Park

Until February 17, 2008
Clipper Magazine Stadium
Lancaster, PA

Most Likey to Murder

Until April 13
Allenberry Playhouse
Boiling Springs, PA

Truckin': The American Pick Up

Until April 30
Antique Auto Museum
Hershey, PA

A Rose by Any Other Name

Did you know that there are more than 200 men with the name George W. Bush in America?

There's more name coincidence. Here's how they add up.

12 Joe Bachelors
500 James Bonds
12 dozen Tom Cruises
24 Oprah Winfreys
6 Ichabod Cranes
23 Rush Limbaughs
47 Dan Quayles
9 Donald Rumsfelds
121 Ann Coulters
4 Karl Roves
5 Rudy Giulianis
59 Hillary Clintons
Too many Al Gores to count
3 dozen Dick Cheneys
197 Homer Simpsons
144 Brad Pitts
100+ Britney Spears
4 Lindsay Lohans
34 Paris Hiltons
15 Adolf Hitlers in America
4 Osama bin Ladens

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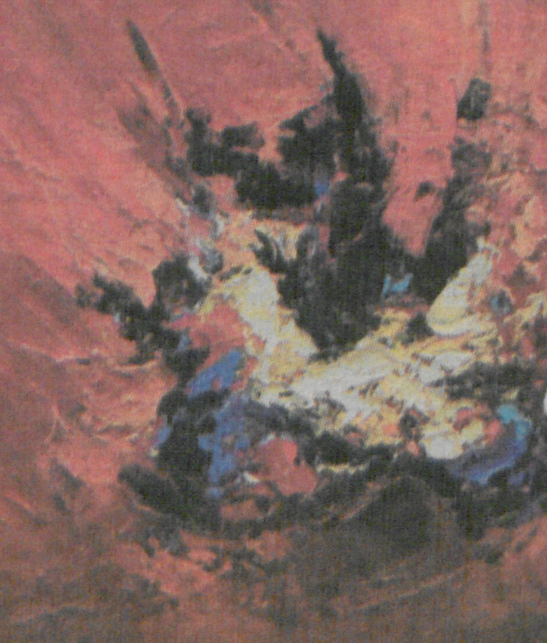

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Annie Lennox: Empowered Diva

Ready for a roller-coaster ride? That's what Annie Lennox likens her music to, and her new solo disc, Songs of Mass Destruction, is certainly a dramatic journey of extreme emotions-as is this interview with the surprisingly sassy songstress.

But when discussing her work, she's a serious artiste: "Each track has a different feel," Annie says of the album that veers from atmospheric songs of loss to anthemic calls for hope.

Q: After hearing the haunting debut single "Dark Road" and reading about the disc's serious subject matter, listeners might not be prepared for the upbeat, anthemic sound on many tracks. How do you meld the two?

Annie Lennox: Seamlessly, dear! The music comes intuitively. I don't try to figure it out. And as human beings, we are paradoxical, the two things co-exist: darkness and light, positive and negative. You can't get one without the other. I've always been a person with a dark side, but I do try to be positive.

Q: Yet another sample of "Sweet Dreams" has surfaced in a dance track, this time in Britney Spears's "Everybody." You've covered other artist's songs, but how do you feel about your work being covered and sampled?

Well, most of the time I don't mind, but frankly, I think a lot of it's pretty lame.

Q: Bloggers followed the recent "news" about your teenage daughter Lola's party being overrun with hooligans who trashed your home. How did everything turn out? Is Lola sooo grounded until she's 50?

The whole thing was grossly exaggerated and reinvented. The party wasn't even held at my house to begin with. There was no bill of damage to pay, because there was no damage done. The paper got hold of a story and they spun it out, basically. Sorry to disappoint. But that's the boring old truth. I'm not going to recap on it because it's

nobody's business. What kind of adjectives could I use to describe it? Pathetic, ridiculous, invasive, laughable, prurient, pointless. That'll do.

Q: As a mother, do you see your daughters going through the same things you went through, or do you think being young today is a totally different experience?

Young people are going through all the things that young people have always gone through. But the times are always changin'. It's a completely different planet than mine 40 years ago. Cell phones, Internet, media, fashion, information, consumerism, celebrity, affluence, air travel, etc. etc. Besides, we tend to forget that the world is split in two: those that have, and those that don't. In many places children don't even make their fifth birthday and life expectancy is around 38 years. It's a little sobering when you consider the prevalent cultural obsession with bullshit celebrity.

Q: The new album and the video for "Dark Road" explore that political and economic rift in today's world. On the new album cover, you symbolize a priestess rising from the destruction?

I had the imagery established in my mind well before we went to the studio. I wanted to stand in front of an apocalyptical sky because every day I'm seeing images of destruction. Some bombing here, some building that has been blitzed, some body parts lying around. When I say "Songs of Mass Destruction," it isn't only in Iraq. The globe itself is almost at a tipping point. Now is a time to question political leaders and find ways to save the planet.

Regarding your new album: Some tracks give me the impression of someone who has been pushed too far for the last time, someone on an extreme edge. Would it be a mistake to assume you're writing from personal experiences?

Darlin', I've been through pretty much everything. Let me put it to you like that. But having said that, I have to say that the songs are non-specific ... just like STDs.

STDs!?! I'm sure I wouldn't know anything about that, but speaking of which-God, this is a terrible segue-the gays have always loved you. Can you elaborate on that relationship?

Gay men relate to me because they want to be me, stupid! Just kiddin'! I wish that people wouldn't have to make their sexual orientation the entire center of their existence. I don't think too much about which side of the fence people are on. I just know whether I feel connected to them. A lot of the time, I still feel pretty alienated from the herd. I keep myself to myself mostly.

One last subject: dance mixes. You music has always been a staple on the dance floor. And you have remixes already slated for the single "Sing." You said you collaborate with the art directors. Do you also work with the DJs and producers on the remixes?

I'm going to be brutally honest here. I find a lot of it totally vacuous. People say you've got to have taken a lot of drugs before you "get it." I'm pretty sure that you have to take a lot of drugs. What kind of drugs are you gay guys taking? Wait! Don't answer that! Please don't!

Songs of Mass Destruction (Arista Records) is now in stores.

REVIEWS

CDs • BOOKS • DVDs

Local Jennifer Storm Authors Book

Blackout Girl: Growing Up and Drying Out in America

From first time author, Jennifer Storm, comes a riveting memoir of what happens to a teenage girl whose life is awash in alcohol, drugs and the trauma of rape. Storm's inspiring book "Blackout Girl: Growing up and Drying Out in America" will be released by Hazelden Publishing next month and is currently available on amazon.com for pre-orders.\

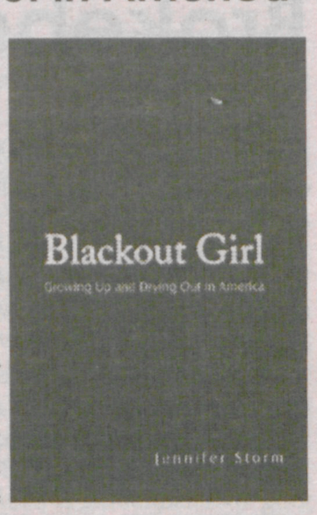
Growing up near Allentown, Storm was already stealing sips of her mother's crème de menthe at age six. By age 13, she was binge drinking and soon found herself anesthetized to many of life's harsher realities, but it didn't save her from becoming further victimized.

For Storm, passing out and blacking out became indistinguishable. Dating and rape seemed to go hand in hand. To cope with the added pressures of young adulthood, drugs were soon added to the mix - anything to dull the senses and quell the confusion of growing up gay in perky, straight 1980s America.

However, in the end, Storm comes through her ordeal to succeed, despite all odds. Her story proves that forgiveness and redemption are more than possible through sobriety and a commitment to keep putting one foot in front of the other.

Blackout Girl's key features for readers:

•Presents a lively look at American teen culture and the pressure to engage in high-risk behaviors.

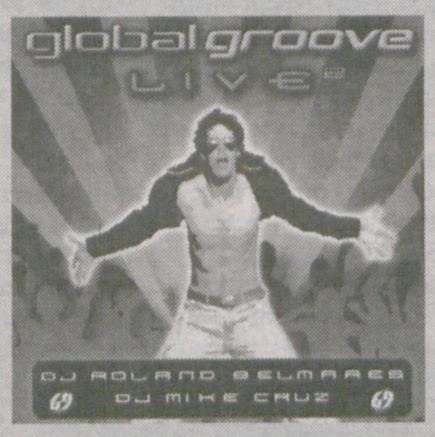


•Inspires readers on how to regain one's life after addiction and trauma seemed to have cost a person everything.
•Offers a realistic look at how teens and young adults can begin taking honest responsibility for their sexual orientation.
•Illustrates how forgiveness of self and others plays a key role in rebuilding one's life.

In 2002, Storm joined Victim Witness Assistance Program (VWAP) as the organization's executive director. Before joining VWAP, Jennifer was the first full-time Statewide Pennsylvania Rights Coalition director. During her tenure, the Pennsylvania legislature passed one of the most inclusive hate crime statues in the country. Later that year, Governor Ed Rendell appointed her as a commissioner to the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency.

Storm has completed more than 100 media interviews, including frequent appearances on ABC, FOX, NBC, NPR, CBS and PBS as a spokesperson for victim's rights. Contact: 717-805-0222; www.jenniferstorm.com.

"GLOBAL GROOVE: LIVE 2"



Roland Belmares & Mike Cruz join forces on new Global Groove CD

Featuring billboard hits "Make it Last" and "Activate My Body", plus new songs from Debby Holiday, Taxi Doll, Zelma Davis and Peter Presta

Centaur's Global Groove Tour is officially underway and the newest Official mix from the Global Groove Tour, "**Global Groove: Live 2**", is now complete. "Live 2" is the 29th CD in the Global Groove CD series, and comes on the heels of the critically acclaimed "Live" CD (April 2007). "Global Groove: Live 2" features two of America's top club DJs; **Roland Belmares** (Los Angeles) and **Mike Cruz** (New York). Both DJs are currently headlining the Fall segment of the Global Groove Tour which will reach 25+ cities around the U.S. and Brazil.

"Mike and Roland have captured some of the hottest sounds being heard in nighclubs around the country," says Centaur's Chief Operating Officer Jamie Baxter. "Introducing Mike Cruz on the Centaur label alongside our veteran Roland Belmares was a very exciting undertaking; as they compliment each other extremely well in style and energy level."

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The staff is fantastic and the designers took our rough idea and produced an image we're proud to have represent us. Kristen Richards, our Sales Representative, took time to answer all our questions and to make sure everything was exactly as we wanted. Central Voice has truly helped make our business prosper. Primary Lending highly recommends the publication as a fantastic advertising outlet. The team's hard work and attention to detail have certainly made us a customer for life.

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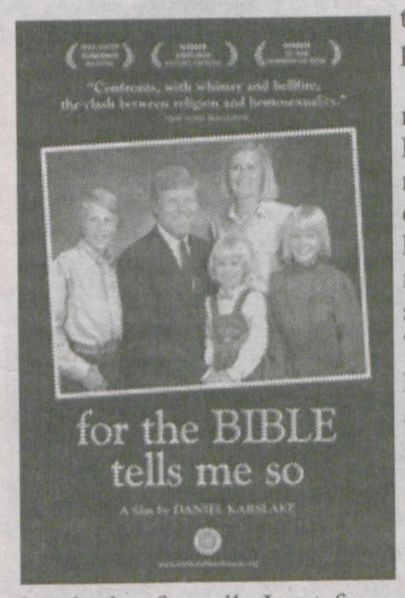
Filmmaker Talks to Central Voice, Originally from Camp Hill

Central Voice: ***What is your connection to central PA?***

Daniel Karslake: My family moved to Camp Hill, PA from Albany, New York when I was 11 and I lived there throughout the rest of my secondary education. Though I went away to school, Duke University, NC, my parents remained in Camp Hill, and in fact, still live there today. My sister and her family also live in Enola. So I am still very connected to the area and come home for visits often.

CV: ***What motivated you to make "Bible?"***

DK: "Last week I bought the gun. Yesterday I wrote the note. But last night I happened to see your show on PBS and just knowing that someday, somewhere I might be able to go back into my church with my head held high, I dropped the gun in the river. My mom never has to know." That is the email I received from a gay kid in Iowa the day after the PBS series "In the Life" aired a segment I had produced about Reverend Irene Monroe, an out lesbian theologian at Harvard University. It was 1998. I had often wondered why "In the Life," an excellent newsmagazine show made for a national gay and lesbian audience, had never done a story about religion. The show's executive producer explained that "In the Life" was a PBS show and that the topic of religion, particularly the nexus between religion and sexuality, would surely be too controversial for



too many people.

But when I met Reverend Monroethrough my work at Riverside Church, I knew she would make a great subject for an "In the Life" profile, and I got the green light.

That email from the young man in Iowa was the first of hundreds of emails I got from gay and lesbian people from across the country who felt so rejected and condemned by their own churches that they had considered or were still considering taking their own lives. Ironically gay kids, especially guys - I think because of how we're made and who we are - many gay kids grow up really involved in their church and tend to be very much a part of that church family. So when the condemnation happens and the rejection, it's like another family rejection. It's very strong.

So when that first piece aired, it sort of became what I was all about. Then in 2003, I decided to quit my job in order to make "For The Bible Tells Me So" because I felt that making a documentary about the topic could potentially reach a large number of people and, perhaps, save even more lives.

CV: ***Do you think the bible promotes hatred toward the glbt community?***

DK: I absolutely do not believe that that Bible "promotes hatred toward the glbt community." Instead, it is human beings who misinterpret the Bible who use those sacred texts to promote misunderstanding, fear and even hatred of gay and lesbian people.

CV: ***What do you think about "reparative therapies?"***

DK: I believe that God made all of God's children, even God's homosexual children, so the term "reparative therapy" is a misnomer because there is nothing to "repair."

CV: Are you excited about your work being screened in locally?

DK: I'm really looking forward to screening "Bible" in central Pennsylvania. Not only did I grow up in Camp Hill, but I also spent a summer as an intern at WGAL Channel 8 in Lancaster, so after premiering at Sundance and traveling all over the world with the film, it's great to be "coming home" to screen it in the area where I grew up!

Karslake with **Dick Gephardt** and his daughter **Chrissy** at Sundance Film Festival.

Karslake with his parents, Marianne and Dick Karslake, Camp Hill.

At Strand-Capitol & 2 Other Locations

"For the Bible Tells Me So" Explores Faith-based Hatred

York's Strand-Capitol Theatre will screen "For the Bible Tells Me So" Jan. 13 as part of Capitol Cinema Sundays at 3 and 7:30 pm. Tickets are $7. Group discounts are available by calling 846-1111. The film is sponsored by York's Unitarian Universalist Congregation.

Other Dates

The award-winning film also screens on two dates. The first date is Jan. 24, 6 pm at the Allen Theater, Annville. That screening is sponsored by Freedom Rings, Lebanon Valley College's Straight-Gay Alliance. The second date is Jan. 25, 7 pm at the Market Square Presbyterian Church, Harrisburg, sponsored by the church's Peacemaking Committee.

Local Filmmaker

Originally from Camp Hill, "Bible" is directed and produced filmmaker Daniel Karslake. He is making a special guest appearance for each Strand-Capital screening. He will do an audience Q & A session after each screening.

Filmmaker Synopsis

Can the love between two people ever be an abomination? Is the chasm separating gays and lesbians and Christianity too wide to cross? Is the Bible an excuse to hate?

Through the experiences of five very normal, very Christian, very American families - including those of former House Majority Leader Richard Gephardt and Episcopalian Bishop Gene Robinson - we discover how insightful people of faith handle the realization of having a gay child. Informed by such respected voices as Bishop Desmond Tutu, Harvard's Peter Gomes, Orthodox Rabbi Steve Greenberg and Rev. Jimmy Creech, the movie offers healing, clarity and understanding to anyone caught in the crosshairs of scripture and sexual identity. The film is 97 minutes.

The film was nominated for Sundance Grand Jury Prize, and is 2007 Winner of Audience Award Best Documentary at Seattle, Milwaukee, and Provincetown International Film Festivals.

Info: The Capitol Theatre, 50 N. George St., York; 717.846.1111; www.strandcapitol.org

Karslake

For six years, Karslake has been an award-winning producer for the highly acclaimed newsmagazine, "In the Life," which airs nationally on PBS in over 120 markets. Recognition for his outstanding work for the show, which has centered primarily on issues regarding religion and homosexuality, includes an Emmy nomination from the Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, as well as praise from GLAAD and the National Lesbian and Gay Journalists Association.

From 2001 to mid-2002, Karslake served as Supervising Producer for ITL, overseeing all aspects of production for the news magazine. In the fall of 2002, Karslake partnered with WNET in New York to produce the pilot for "What's Next With Andrew Shapiro" for PBS.

Karslake is also founding partner of The Atticus Group, Inc., a New York-based production company dedicated to reinventing traditional art forms and promoting discussion across a wide range of contemporary issues. The Atticus Group was represented on Broadway in 2003 by Baz Luhrmann's Tony Award-winning production of Puccini s LA BOHEME. Atticus also co-produced the innovative revival of "Big River" with the Roundabout Theatre Company last season.

Prior to his producing career, Karslake was a fundraising and development executive, raising money for organizations such as The Riverside Church in New York, City of Hope National Medical Center and Beckman Research Institute in Los Angeles, and the library system for University of Southern California where he attended the USC School of Cinema-Television. He graduated cum laude from Duke University with a B.A. in Public Policy Studies.

Brokeback Blues

by John DiLeo

It's been two years since *Crash* swiped the Best Picture Oscar from *Brokeback Mountain* in one of the great upsets in Academy history. After all, *Brokeback* had won every major pre-Oscar prize and was both a critics' darling and a box-office hit. Surely, the time had come for a beautiful film about same-sex love to snag Hollywood's top honor.

By choosing the far inferior *Crash,* the Academy showed cowardice and—there's no way around it—homophobia. It was shocking to hear Tony Curtis and Ernest Borgnine openly bragging about snubbing *Brokeback.* Not only did this loss feel like a betrayal to every gay person who had ever hosted an Oscar party, but once again the Academy embarrassed itself by its timidity. As we gear up for this year's mistakes, let's look back at how often Oscar has fumbled the Best Picture category.

The Academy is frequently seduced by spectacle over content: the elephantine musical *The Great Ziegfeld* beat the sublime comedy *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town* in 1936; the third-rate circus melodrama *The Greatest Show on Earth* defeated the probing western *High Noon* in 1952; *Titanic,* with its laughable histrionics, overtook the stylish substance of *L.A. Confidential* in 1997. *High Noon* was further undone by its writer's blacklisting, leaving voters to flee from "controversial" politics.

Later, politics would scare members away from the still-raw recent history of *All the President's Men,* opting instead for the feel-good fantasy of *Rocky* as 1976's best, while the sympathetic portrait of American socialists in *Reds* led the 1981 Academy to favor *Chariots of Fire*'s gauzy triumph of the spirit.

Chariots of Fire is one of many Oscar winners that played on voters' unquenchable Anglophilia. Noel Coward's dreadful historical pageant *Cavalcade* was 1933's inexplicable victor in the year of *King Kong* and *Duck Soup.* The Academy's drooling over all things British is the only explanation for the tastefully unchallenging *A Man for All Seasons* besting the ferocious *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* in 1966, or for Laurence Olivier's unimpassioned *Hamlet* topping the riveting *Treasure of the Sierra Madre* in 1948.

Sometimes Oscar is impressed by the unimpressive, falling for such dogs as: *Marty* (1955), confusing its thinness with realism; *Kramer vs. Kramer* (1979), mistaking its heavy obviousness for churning contemporary drama; and the shamelessly manipulative *Million Dollar Baby* (2004). Did the Academy think itself "deep" when it found the grotesque shallowness of *American Beauty* more stirring than a truly provocative work like *The Insider*? Oscar often turns off his mind and votes with his tear ducts, unwisely choosing *Going My Way* over *Double Indemnity* in 1944, *Terms of Endearment* over *The Right Stuff* in 1983, and *Forrest Gump* over *Pulp Fiction* in 1994.

The high-toned dance musical *An American in Paris* was 1951's undeserving winner because the sexual explosiveness of *A Streetcar Named Desire* terrified voters. To avoid more unsettling fare, the 1960s Academy hid behind the safe legitimacy of Broadway musical adaptations. Voters must have felt cultured as they wrongheadedly chose *West Side Story* over *The Hustler* in 1961, *My Fair Lady* over *Dr. Strangelove* in 1964, and *Oliver!* over the un-nominated *2001: A Space Odyssey* in 1968. (I'm a sucker for 1965's *The Sound of Music,* so I'll not criticize the Academy for succumbing to its open-air charms.)

Oscar is a rather conservative fellow, usually lagging behind the times. When the musical *Gigi* beat the potent racism drama *The Defiant Ones* (starring Sidney Poitier) in 1958, it showed that Oscar wasn't ready to deal head-on with African-Americans. A decade later, after the subject was no longer as daring, the Academy chose another Poitier film, *In the Heat of the Night* (1967), a movie nowhere near as good as two it beat: *Bonnie and Clyde* and *The Graduate.* With its TV-style murder mystery, *In the Heat of the Night* was, despite Poitier's presence, the cautious, self-congratulatory choice.

The 1947 Academy, feeling bold, chose the tame anti-Semitism drama *Gentleman's Agreement* over *Crossfire,* a more powerful film dealing with the same issue. In a 1970 battle of war films, the ingeniously original *MASH* was bypassed for the conventional *Patton. Dances with Wolves* (1990) convinced voters that its treatment of Native-Americans was groundbreaking, even though there had been several better westerns from the 50s and 60s with similar material.

Oscar confuses great subjects with great films: Gandhi was great but *Gandhi* isn't; Mrs. Miniver behaved admirably during the blitz but *Mrs. Miniver* (1942) is far less admirable; Mozart was brilliant but *Amadeus* (1984) ain't.

I could go on, but the point is that *Brokeback Mountain* is in good company. The Academy will always be a bunch of sissies.

John DiLeo's third book, *Screen Savers,* has just been published.

THEATRE ROUNDUP

Open State Holds Final Anne Frank Auditions

Open Stage of Harrisburg will hold auditions for its annual production of "The Diary of Anne Frank" Jan 7-8, 6 pm with callbacks Jan 9. The production is directed by Jon Liebetrau. Rehearsals begin Jan. 21.

Performances are March 11-15. Daytime availability is required from March 10-14. Actors are encouraged to call 214-3251 or to e-mail casting@openstagehbg.com to make an audition appointment. A memorized two-minute monologue is required for the audition.

A variety of actors are needed to fill the large ensemble cast, including: two teenage girls to play Anne and Margot Frank, a young woman in her early twenties to play Miep Gies, two middle-aged women to play Mrs. Frank and Mrs. Van Daan. Also needed are: a teenage boy to play Peter Van Daan, three middle-aged men to play Mr. Frank, Mr. Kraler, and Mr. Dussel and several men in their twenties to portray Nazi soldiers.

Open Stage is located on the street level of the Walnut Street Garage in downtown Harrisburg. Open Stage of Harrisburg is a Constituent of Theatre Communications Group (TCG), the national organization for American theatre.

Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center Adds Sales Manager

The Strand-Capitol Performing Arts Center is pleased to announce the addition of Penny Rostamali as its new Sales Manager.

Penny comes to the Strand-Capitol as no stranger to the world of theater and performing arts. Previously holding the position of Director of Development and Sales at the Eichelberger Performing Arts Center in Hanover and with over 25 total years in sales and marketing, Penny brings a wealth of experience to an underdeveloped and key area to the Strand-Capitol's revenue growth strategy.

Her primary responsibilities at the Strand-Capitol will involve program advertising, group sales, non-performance facility rentals, promotions and community relations.

Open Stage Offers Winter Classes

Registration has begun for the Open Stage of Harrisburg Studio/School winter theatre classes for adults, teens, and children. Classes are held in street level of the Walnut Street Parking Garage.

Children's and young people's 10-week classes are held Saturdays beginning Jan. 12 - March 15. Michele Manduchi and Trish Baillie teach the kids' classes. Class in *Creative Dramatics* for children in grades 3 to 5 will be held from 10:00 to 11:00 AM. The class builds concentration, language, and social skills, and develops the imagination.

The two-term *Creative Dramatics Workshop* for children with some dramatic experience in grades 4 to 6 from will be held from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. The two-term *Middle School Workshop* for kids in grades 7 and 8 from will be taught from 10- 11:30 AM. Both classes will present an original performance in March.

High School Workshop for kids in grades 9-12 also runs Jan. - March 15, 11:45 AM - 1:45 PM, and includes an introduction to formal acting technique, script analysis, voice, and movement. The students also create an original performance in March.

Taught by School Director Anne Alsedek, the adult acting classes include *Acting Technique*, based on the famous Sanford Meisner approach to actor training. For beginning and experienced actors, the Technique class begins Jan. - March 10, 6:30 to 8:30 PM.

Scene Study and *Studio Workshop* classes for adults who have completed Acting Technique will be held Jan. 8 - March 11, 6:30-8:30 and 7:00-9:30 PM. These classes will be taught by Alsedek, and will culminate in a performance March 13 and 14. Information: 214-3250.

Open Stage, a not-for-profit professional regional theatre, receives state arts funding support from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency administering an annual state appropriation for grants to the arts and funding from the National Endowment for the Arts.

Hershey Theater

RENT Jan. 2-3

The Theatrical Experience that Changed Broadway Forever

The 2007-2008 national touring production of RENT features Heinz Winckler as Roger Davis and Anwar Robinson as Tom Collins. The Tony Award and Pulitzer Prize winning Broadway musical RENT, written by Jonathan Larson and directed by Michael Greif, is coming to Hershey Theatre for two performances on Wednesday, January 2 and Thursday, January 3 – both are 8 p.m. show times. Tickets for all performances will go on sale this Monday, November 19, at 10 a.m. at Hershey Theatre Box Office.

Winckler was the winner of the first South African Idol in 2002 and the 4th place finalist in the 2003 inaugural World Idol competition, in which he competed against American Idol win-

continued on page 22

HARRISBURG MEN'S CHORUS

WE'VE GONE PLATINUM!

ROSE LEHRMAN ARTS CENTER
AT HARRISBURG AREA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

SATURDAY, JANUARY 12, 8:00PM
SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2:00PM

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(717)236-3809
WWW.HARRISBURGMENSCHORUS.ORG

EICHELBERGER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
PRESENTS

Directed & Choreographed by CHAD-ALAN CARR
Music Directed by CLAIRE MENGER
Co-Choreographed by ERIC B. MOTA

A CHORUS LINE

Tickets: $20 & $15
OPENING NIGHT ALL SEATS JUST $12!

Thursday, Feb. 14 @ 7:30PM
Friday, Feb. 15 @ 8PM
Saturday, Feb. 16 @ 8PM
Sunday, Feb. 17 @ 3PM

Eichelberger Productions Series Sponsor: M&T BANK
2007/08 Season Sponsor: THE EVENING SUN

Tickets on sale now!
Box Office: 717.637.7086 • www.TheEich.org
195 Stock Street, Hanover PA

This production contains adult material. May not be suitable for all audiences.

Eichelberger Performing Arts Center Offers Exciting 10th Season

The Eichelberger Performing Arts Center, Hanover, continues its 10th Season with a diverse lineup of oldies concerts, country, bluegrass, family entertainment, musicals and more.

January 2008

Jan. 12 – Concert Series: The Duprees with special guest Pastime. With their unique sound and outstanding vocal harmonies, The Duprees have wooed audience with such hits as "You Belong to Me" and "My Own True Love." Catch them at the Eichelberger when they team up with Harrisburg's own a cappella doo-wop sensation Pastime. Show sponsored by Estelle & Rick King and Georgia & James Simpson. 8:00 PM. Tickets: $35 & $32.

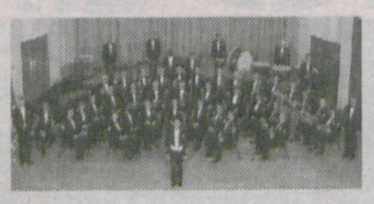
Jan. 19 – Country Series: Ronnie McDowell. With a riveting stage presence and genuine warmth, McDowell continues to charm audiences again and again. See this born entertainer as he performs all the crowd favorites and dazzles audiences with his well-known tribute to Elvis Presley. 8:00 PM. Tickets: $38 & $35.

February 2008

Feb. 2 – Bluegrass Series: Rhonda Vincent & the Rage. Vincent remains one of the most acclaimed and popular figures in today's bluegrass scene. An accomplished vocalist as well as instrumentalist, she teams up with her fiery road band The Rage for her sixth performance at the Eichelberger! 8:00 PM. Tickets: $38 & $35.

Feb. 14 – 17 – Eichelberger Productions Series: A Chorus Line. Instantly recognized as a classic, this musical-verite tells of the poignant ambitions of professional gypsies as they audition for a place in a Broadway show. It's a celebration of the American musical itself. Thurs., 7:30 PM; Fri. & Sat., 8:00 PM; Sun., 3:00 PM. Tickets: $20 & $15, opening night all seats $12.

Feb. 20 – A Special Event: United States Air Force Heritage of America Concert Band. Presenting an exciting program of traditional classics, rousing marches, contemporary selections and a featured soloist and patriotic music, these talented musicians will thrill all audiences. Tickets for this event will be available to Friends members October 2; General public October 9. 7:30 PM. FREE CONCERT.

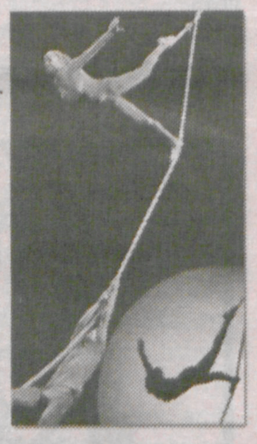


Feb. 24 – Family Series: Tom Chapin & Friends. Chapin has entertained, amused, and enlightened audiences with life-affirming original songs for more than 30 years. Bring the entire family to this memorable musical event! 3:00 PM. Tickets: $20 & $17, Children 12 & under $10.

March 2008

March 1 – Premiere Shows: Satisfaction…A Rolling Stones Experience. The next best thing to "The World's Greatest Rock-n-Roll Band" is this exciting 40th Anniversary tribute show! Audiences will be amazed at this full-scale production, complete with the look-a-likes of Mick Jagger and company. 8:00 PM. Tickets: $39 & $36.

March 9 – Entertainment Series: Russian-American Kids Circus. Trained and produced by veterans of the world famous Moscow Circus, these artists fill the stage with a blur of spangles, dazzling audiences with their synchronized acrobatics, black lights, unicycles, expert juggling, daring aerial feats, and balancing acts. 3:00 PM. Tickets: $35 & $32.



March 16 – Concert Series: Searson. Traditional Celtic music fuses with a fresh, contemporary sound when this Canadian foursome takes the stage. Fiddle, strong vocals, bass, electric and acoustic guitar, mandolin, banjo and three step dancers complete this dynamic quartet. 3:00 PM. Tickets: $35 & $32.

March 30 – Country Series: The Ozark Jubilee. Featuring Branson's funniest comedian and world-class fiddler, Doofus Doolittle, you won't want to miss the legendary eight member group perform in this afternoon of music and laughs! 3:00 PM. Tickets: $38 & $35.

Tickets are available now at the Eichelberger Box Office by calling (717) 637-7086, online at www.TheEich.org, or in person at 195 Stock Street in Hanover.

Eichelberger Performing Arts Center provides cultural enrichment for youth and adults within and beyond our community through quality entertainment, educational experiences, and opportunities for personal involvement in a broad spectrum of performing arts. For more information, contact the Eichelberger's Administrative Offices at (717) 632-9356.

Eichelberger 2007-2008 Corporate Sponsors

The Eichelberger's 2007-2008 Season is sponsored by
The Evening Sun

Eichelberger Productions Series sponsored by
M&T Bank

Bluegrass Series sponsored by
Hanover Hospital

Entertainment Series sponsored by
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Family Series sponsored by
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Concert Series sponsored by
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Premiere Events Series sponsored by
Gary & Susan Sterner.

Hershey Theater continued

ner Kelly Clarkson. Robinson was the 7th place finalist on the 4th season of American Idol.

Critics have called RENT "the best thing that has happened to the Broadway musical in a long time," and have said that RENT "justifies every bit of attention that has been lavished on this phenomenal musical." "It shimmers with hope for the future of the American musical." The New York Times.

RENT is the theatrical experience that transformed how a generation feels about musicals, changed Broadway forever, and inspired a major motion picture. Set in the East Village of New York City, RENTis about being young and learning to survive, falling in love, finding your voice and living for today. RENT has made a lasting mark on Broadway with songs that rock and a story that really resonates.

The show received its world premiere off-Broadway at New York Theatre Workshop on February 13, 1996 to ecstatic reviews. It rapidly became a sold-out hit. The show transferred to Broadway on April 29, 1996 where it continues to play at The Nederlander Theatre. RENT is now the 7th longest running show in Broadway history.

The success of RENT is always tempered by the death of its creator, Jonathan Larson. Larson died unexpectedly of an aortic aneurysm on the morning of January 25, 1996, just hours after Rent's final dress rehearsal off-Broadway, and ten days before his 36th birthday.RENT features musical direction by Tim Weil, choreography by Marlies Yearby, set design by Paul Clay, costume design by Angela Wendt and lighting design by Blake Burba.

Tickets: www.hersheytheatre.com; $53, $49, $39 and $31 (processing fees); 717-534-3405. Hershey Theatre is located at 15 E. Caracas Avenue in downtown Hershey.

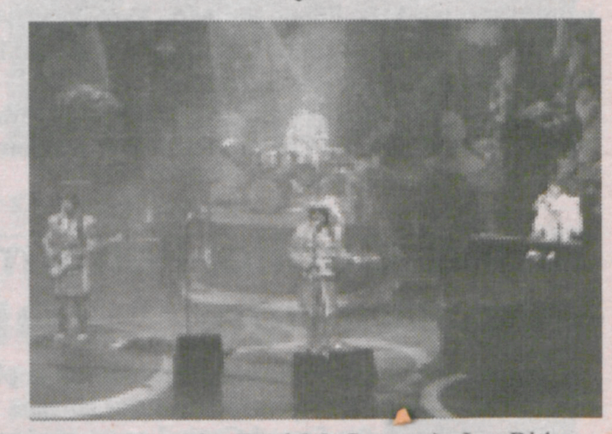
Jan. 22

RAIN – The Beatles Experience Premieres at Hershey Theatre From Ed Sullivan to Abbey Road

The award-winning Beatles concert, RAIN – The Beatles Experience, makes its debut at Hershey Theatre for one show only Jan. 22, 7:30 p.m.

In a show the Denver Post calls "the next best thing to seeing The Beatles," RAIN boasts a song list of nearly 200 Beatlemaniac favorites, ranging from such beloved songs as "Yesterday" and "Hey Jude" to classic hits including "Revolution" and "Come Together." Not only have new songs been added, but now the concert will have surround sound giving audiences the ultimate Beatles sound experience!

RAIN – The Beatles Experience covers the Fab Four from their very first Ed Sullivan Show appearance through the Abbey Road album. RAIN is a multi-media, multi-dimensional experience, a fusion of historical footage and television commercials from the 1960s lights up video screens and live cameras zoom in for close-ups. For the four longtime band members



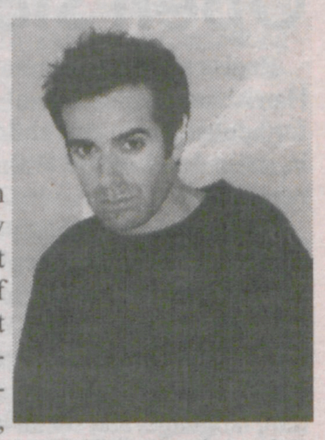
– Joey Curatolo (Paul McCartney), Joe Bithorn (George Harrison), Ralph Castelli (Ringo Starr) and Steve Landes (John Lennon), with a little help from their friend Mark Lewis (keyboards, percussion) – the music is first and foremost.

Tickets are $62.75, $49.75, $39.75, $29.75 (processing fees); 717-534-3405; www.hersheytheatre.com. Hershey Theatre is located at 15 E. Caracas Avenue in downtown Hershey.

Jan. 25

David Copperfield Comes to Hershey Theatre ~An Evening of Grand Illusion~

Imagine if you could win the lottery, travel to your perfect place in the blink of an eye, own your dream car, turn back the hands of time or reunite with a lost loved one. It all becomes a reality, every night. True to its title, "Grand Illusion" is the logical and incredible evolution of this conjurer's art. Copperfield's goal in "Grand Illusion" is to take one's dreams (and maybe a few nightmares) and make them become reality using his state of the art wizardry as Copperfield appears at Hershey Theatre, Jan. 25 for two great shows 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. "For magic to be relevant," explains Copperfield, "it has to evolve so it keeps up with, or even surpasses, the best film and theater. I want to base my work on what people really dream about. Most of us don't dream of pulling a rabbit out of a hat. But what affects people is realizing personal dreams, dreams almost everyone shares, that they thought were impossible. In the cinema the audience watches the characters' dreams come true." Tickets: $60, $49, $39 (processing fees apply) at 717-534-3405 or hersheytheatre.com. Hershey Theatre is located at 15 E. Caracas Avenue in downtown Hershey.



Girls Gone Wild?

Are Ladies' Nights Offensive?

When you read ads like "Ladies Free before 9" are you offended?

Did Ozzie meet Harriet at a night like that in some well-lit bar? (Probably not.)

Why don't we see any "Mens' Night" specials, where guys can cram into a bar before the anointed hour for free or reduced fare?

Last June, NYC attorney Roy Den Hollander filed a federal lawsuit alleging that ladies' nights were a violation of the 14th Amendment. That amendment is one of the post-Civil War amendments (known as the Reconstruction Amendments), meant to secure rights for former slaves. It includes the Due Process and Equal Protection Clauses. Think equal protection.

Hollander named beer boxes full of clubs which charge women lower admission fees. A self-proclaimed hound dog, hollander doesn't see his legal action as working against his self interest. He cites other ways in which men are discriminated against in America: child-custody laws, circumcision, and "5% of females have borderline personality dosorder." "What I'm trying to do now in my later years is fight everybody who violates my rights," he told the New Yorker. You go girl!

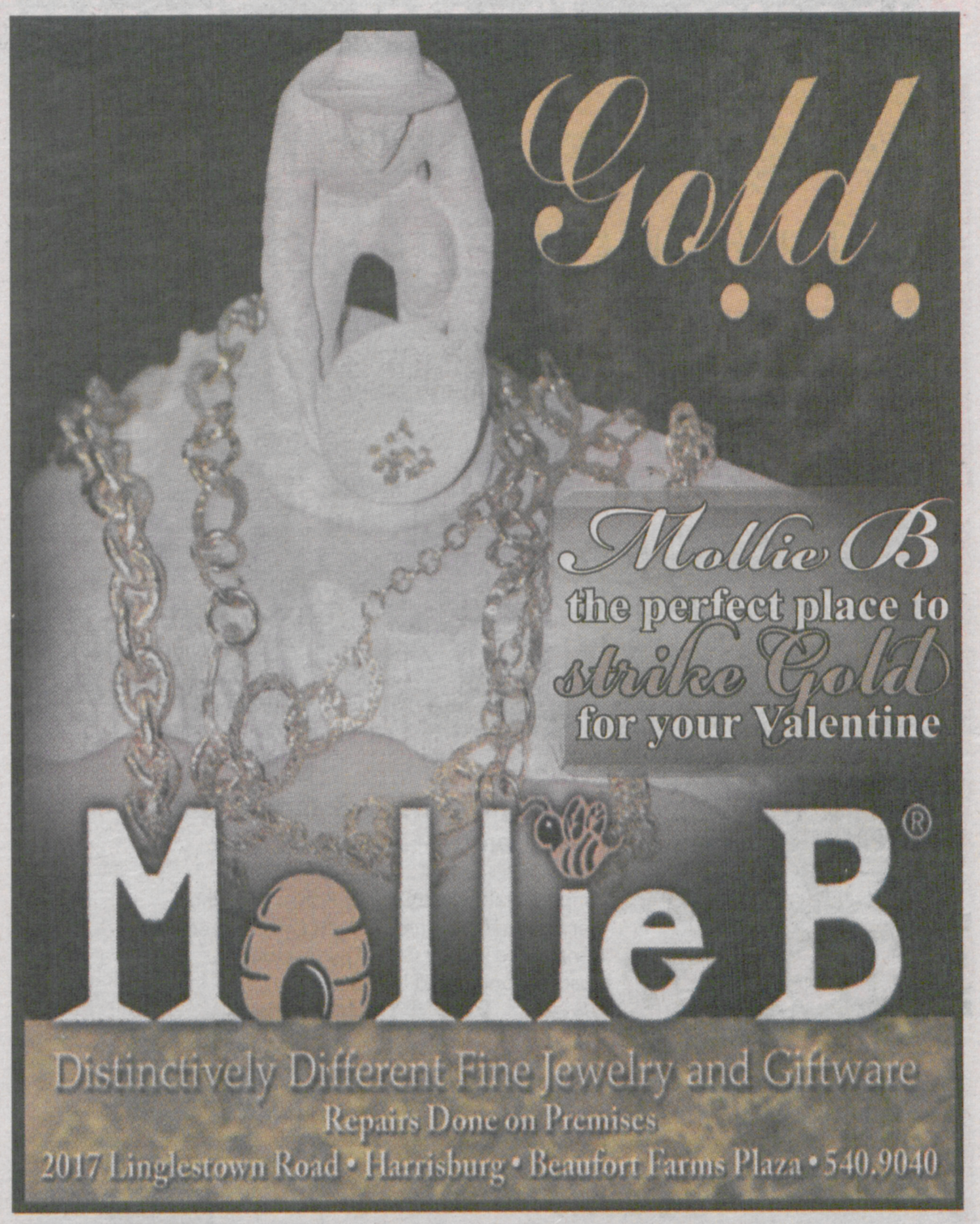
The Pride Festival of Central Pennsylvania
AND
GLENDA'S CABARET PRESENTS

SHOW US YOUR PRIDE TOUR 2008

WITH YOUR HOSTESS
MISS CENTRAL PA GAY PRIDE 2007
AURORA FONTAINE

NEPTUNE	FEB 17 TH
LIQUID891	MARCH 7 TH
STALLIONS	MARCH 9 TH
CLUB XS	APRIL 4 TH
BROWNSTONE	APRIL 5 TH
CC'S	APRIL 19TH
CLUB Z	MAY 3RD
TALLY HO	JUNE 14TH
DAWG HOUS	JUNE 27 TH
STRAWBERRY	JULY 13 TH

Pride in self. Pride in family.
Pride in all that you do...



Laughter. Corruption. Big Hair. Legendary Musical.

...Coming In 2008!

Caroline Rhea & Colin Quinn
Sat., Jan. 19 • 7:30pm
From HBO to NBC, Rhea's comedy is unpredictable, witty, smart & fresh. Joining her from *MTV*, *Saturday Night Live*, *Comedy Central* and *A&E* is Colin Quinn – tough, brusque, topical and hilarious.
Media sponsor: 21 WNEP CW15

Chicago Thur., Feb. 14 • 7:30pm
Razzle-dazzle Broadway hit musical of murder, greed, corruption and violence.
Sponsored by: W. Dale Brougher Endowment Fund.
Media sponsor: 21 WNEP CW15
Broadway series partner: National Penn

Hairspray
Thur. & Fri., Mar. 13 & 14 • 7:30pm
Why go to New York when you can see this Tony Award-winning musical comedy phenomenon when it comes to the Strand stage?! This Broadway smash is a tribute to the sixties, rock and roll and Baltimore!
Sponsored by: Gettysburg Insurance Group
Media sponsor: 21 WNEP CW15
Broadway series partner: National Penn

Evita
Tues., Apr. 8 • 7:30pm
This winner of 7 Tony Awards features one of Andrew Lloyd Webber's most memorable scores, including *Don't Cry for Me, Argentina.*
Signing provided for hearing impaired.
Sponsored by: York County Medical Society Endowment Fund
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For the Bible Tells Me So
Sun., Jan. 13 • 3:00 & 7:30pm (NR)
Filmmaker and Camp Hill native Dan Karslake will do a Q & A after each screening.
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Jan. 26

Spinners Coming To Carlisle Theatre

It should come as no surprise that The Spinners have always made timeless music. Their classic group sound and approach never loses its universal appeal. More remarkable is the fact that The Spinners are more popular in the new millennium than ever. Throughout the years, they have acquired 12 gold records with their hits climbing to the top of both Pop and R&B charts and they are one of the few groups who can boast of four lead singers. Members include, Frank Washington, Bobbie Smith, Henry Fambrough. Pervis Jackson and Harold "Spike" Bonhart.

First Saturdays Art in Carlisle

Jan. 5

This 4th in a continuing series of art shows opens on the First Saturday, Jan. 5. The show features original paintings, drawings and ceramics. Gallery hours: 10 – 5 for these Saturdays.

Fly Away Home
(above) Whistlestop Bookshop
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"A Winter's Palette"

The Garden Gallery
10 North Hanover Street • 249-1721
"T - is for Terrific"

Nancy Stamm's Galleria
201 N. Hanover Street • 240-0551
"Winter Reflections"

Downtown Antiques
152 North Hanover Street • 249-0395
"Winter's Journey"

Good Life Cafe Opens

The Good Life Cafe opened its doors early last December in the former Dutrey's Shoes building at 26 N. Hanover St., Carlisle. Good Life's cuisine is prepared fresh daily, using local organic products straight from the farm to your table.

Available are homemade soups, breads, deli sandwiches, roast chicken, vegetarian dishes, salads, desserts, coffees and teas. Eat in or take out. The cafe will feature live music, events and workshops on their stage and state-of-the-art sound system. www.thegoodlifecafe.com. 717-249-8747.

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~Astrid Alauda

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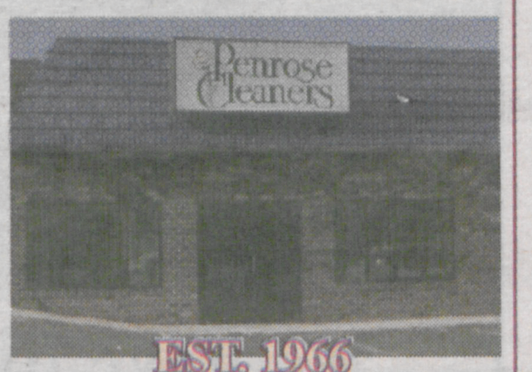

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PENNSYLVANIA COUNCIL ON THE ARTS

Is Preserving Farmland Good Public Policy?

By Madeline Masters

How do you feel when you see what was once a rolling landscape now crowded with bulldozers, the earth churned and ripped, with a freshly posted sign that states the name of the housing development soon to fill that open space?

Cleon Cassel, and Kenneth and Ann Staver of Hanover Township own farms in lower Dauphin County. They are lucky to know the future of their farms once they can no longer maintain the property themselves. But other local farmers do not have that security.

The Pennsylvania Preservation Program is actively trying to prevent farmland from being developed, but they cannot help every farm and farmer. Certain qualifications apply and there are a few different programs, all with slightly different goals and regulations. Not all farmers who are interested in getting involved with preservation are eligible for assistance. Cassel, 68, said he applied for one of the state's programs, but it was

designed more for someone who had bought a farm as an investment, not someone who owned a working farm. He was somewhat disappointed that he could not participate.

Cassel comes from a family of farmers. His farm has been in his family for 103 years, and he hopes it will stay that way for at least another 50. He plans, at some point, to hand his farm down to his children, who all live in the area and are already lending a helping hand around the property. They, too, all work in education like their father did, but haven't strayed far from their love for agriculture. His daughter tends the horses every morning, and his son-in-law often takes the horses out for rides.

Cassel's grandsons help around the farm as well. "Farms are not a good place to make a living," admits Cassel, "but it's a good place to grow a family."

The Stavers also agreed that they raised their family on a farm not for the profit, but for the benefit of their children. Ann Staver, 80, recalled starting her children in a 4-H program as soon as they were old enough to tend to the animals. She feels that farm life taught her children responsibility and leadership. The Stavers' three children today all work in fields related to agriculture. But Cassel pointed out that agricultural education in schools is on the decline. Fewer courses in cultivation are being offered, and as interest in the subject wanes it becomes more difficult for those who are interested to get this kind of education. Cassel recommends schools combine science, agriculture, and ecology curriculums to make agricultural issues more relevant and up-to-date.

The problem with farms in Pennsylvania is that they are simply not as profitable as they used to be. Farmers can't make a living on farming alone. Most rely on another source of income to make ends meet. "You have to be creative to find a way to make a living," explained Ann Staver. Cassel and the Stavers all worked in education as well as operating their farms.

> "The best crop you can raise is houses," explains Cleon Cassel, "But it's the last crop you can plant, and there's no pesticide for it."
>
> – Cleon Cassel

So why are Pennsylvania farms no longer profitable? Just a generation ago farming was a sufficient profession. "We had enough money to buy the horses, but now the kids can't afford the tractors," laments Cassel. Local farmers simply cannot compete with the prices of imported foods. Farmers often cannot charge a profitable price for their produce because competition with

cheap labor from overseas drives prices down. The American consumer either can't or won't pay more for life's necessities, he says.

Cassel says the problem farmers face is that they "buy everything on retail and sell everything on wholesale." It's difficult to get ahead: The obstacles deter new people from entering into the farming business even as those currently farming are folding, scared away.

Developers are perpetually making offers to farmers, hoping to buy up the land for housing. The allure of money is a constant temptation for farmers. "The best crop you can raise is houses," explains Cleon Cassel. "But it's the last crop you can plant, and there's no pesticide for it."

Cassel is well aware of the dilemma many farm owners face when they are forced to choose between receiving a considerable amount of money, or sacrificing their lives on the farm.

Almost everyone agrees to the benefits of preserving open land. The Stavers mentioned that many people come for walks on their property, and ask to bring their children, to see the animals and the grounds. "This area needs to wake up and save some space," commented Ann Staver. Both the citizens of southern Pennsylvania and the government need to work together to solve this problem, they said.

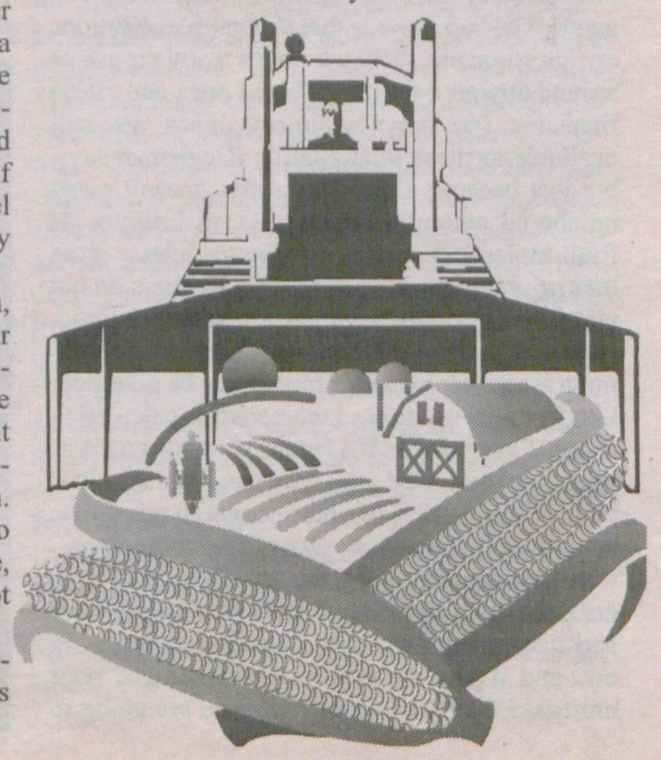
"How much is it worth to watch the sunrise?" asked Cassel, trying to explain why he would never sell his farm. People like the Cassels and the Stavers value the quality of life more than money; this keeps them going despite pressures from the outside world.

One problem with the preservation program is that it chooses to focus on areas where a lot of developing hasn't yet occurred. Ann Staver commented that the program dubbed her area "hopeless" because "suburbia and agriculture got all mixed together." The one savior in the region is Hershey, which owns much of the land and chooses to keep it open, with parkways, golf courses, and green ways. The Stavers and Cassel agree that if Hershey decided to sell the property the area would be doomed.

Open land retention is a nationwide problem, not just in Pennsylvania. Compared to other states, Pennsylvania is doing well. Most Americans think of Pennsylvania as an agricultural state and its preservation program is trying to keep it that way. Maryland has its own preservation programs, and may be more active in asserting them. "They have to," explains Ann Staver. There is too much threat from Washington D.C., Baltimore, and the bay encroaching on the land for them not to take action, she said.

What can be done to revive farming in southern Pennsylvania? The preservation program is one solution. But farmers must be able to make a living from what they sell to the populace, and the demand for their produce must remain strong. Consumers can help by searching for locally grown fruits, vegetables, and animal products, as well as buying more food fresh.

We cannot allow all of our land to be developed, or all of our food to be imported, the farmers said. That would be devastating to our environment as well as our state's independence. "There ought to be one farmer as county commissioner," suggested Cassel. "Right now they have no agriculturally minded people." He believes farmers need to be heard and the problem needs to be taken seriously in order to solve it.



Growing Greener Backs Space Protection

Growing Greener II is an initiative providing grants to critical projects that address both environmental and economic issues, as the two are frequently connected.

"I strongly believe that we must act now to create new jobs and spur economic growth. We simply cannot sit back and watch our economy diminish, hoping a new national tide will move us forward. As a state, the best next step we can take to revitalize our state is to reclaim and improve our natural resources, which will add tremendous new vigor to our economy."

-Governor Edward G. Rendell

Local community open space protection

Open space protection is receiving funding. A portion of this funding is available for open space protection grants to municipalities, non-profits and conservancies for acquisition of lands that are threatened by development. Department of Conservation and Natural Resources [DCNR] grants for open space protection are matched dollar-for-dollar, leveraging matching funds from local communities and organizations. DCNR currently is able to fund about 50 percent of open space protection grant requests. This additional funding for open space protection is contingent on voter approval of the proposed bond issue.

Supporting agriculture's contribution to the economy Farmland preservation easements are the Agriculture Department's tool to protect the tremendous social, environmental and economic contributions that agriculture makes to our communities. Agriculture is a leading industry in Pennsylvania, producing over $45 billion annually and providing about 1 in 6 jobs in agriculture and related business.

Often the market value of the land in Pennsylvania for non-agricultural purposes far exceeds its use for agriculture. Urban sprawl has, in just two generations, covered thousands of acres of prime farmland. Overall, Pennsylvania developed some 1.14 million acres, or 1,800 square miles, of fields, open space and natural land between 1982 and 1997 – the sixth largest such conversion after Texas, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina and California.

Through the easement program, the state and individual counties purchase development rights, or easements, on farmland. Thus landowners are compensated for offering the development rights for the land while permanently protecting the farmland for agriculture. This funding not only supports a major sector of our economy, it also supports local quality of life. It would equate to approximately 375 farms preserved, with an approximate acreage total of 43,067 acres. This funding is contingent on voter approval of the proposed bond issue.

Information: www.growinggreener2.com

Dauphin County Hits 10,000 Preserved Acre Mark

With the development-rights purchase of the Kieffer farm in Jackson Township, Dauphin County has surpassed the 10,000-acre mark in farmland for preservation. The purchase of this farm brings Dauphin County's farmland preservation program total to 10,464 acres. The county used $113,940 in county funds to purchase the easement. The county has preserved 101 farms through the easement purchase program since July 1992. Of the 94,500 acres of farms in Dauphin County, this program has preserved about 10,464 acres, representing about 11 percent of the total agricultural acreage.

Switchboard Membership continued

of the organization completed within 60 days. As of Nov. 26, 2007 there was $31,650.97 is as many as 12 accounts under GLSH's umbrella. As receiver, King will identify and pay unpaid bills from available funds, and then disolve the organization.

All dues-paying members with up-to-date memberships were notified of the proceedings and its implications by either email, sent by King, or through snail mail sent by Common Roads executive director Michelle Simmons.

In all, there were three communications sent to members with regard to GLSH:

(1) A letter from the nominating committee formed Sept. 27 indicating that they had only two nominations to serve on a board that GLSH's bylaws require have four officers and three to seven members-at-large.

(2) A report from King, entitled "Report of Findings, Condition of The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg." King had been asked by both boards of directors of the newly formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc. and the Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition to conduct extensive research into GLSH operations and to facilitate the Dec. 6 meeting held at St. Michael Lutheran Church, Harrisburg.

(3) A Proposed Resolution submitted by the nominating committee that explained why "receivership" was their preferred option for all parties involved.

As found on GLSH's web site, the entity's mission is to operate "a telephone and internet information services and conducts other special projects to deliver information about, and to, the gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered communities. The Switchboard resource information covers the geographic regions including Harrisburg, Lancaster, York, Reading, Williamsport and State College."

The members' decision to place GLSH into receivership, a decision made under the provisions of the organization's bylaws, means that King will receive all of the organization's records in order to assess all outstanding financial obligations, pay outstanding bills, and then proceed with the legal dissolution of the 30-year-old organization.

Sequence of Events

Dan Stroup, originator of the region's gay pride parade, and the event's lead organizer for 2005-2006, requested a meeting of interested glbt and supportive community organizations. That meeting was held Aug. 4, 2007 at Roxy's Restaurant, Harrisburg. There were 17 glbt and supportive organizations in attendance.

At that meeting, it was preliminarily determined that GLSH had not been operating under the terms of its bylaws since 2003, when the last formal election had been held under the rules outlined in the organization's governing bylaws.

As a result of the Aug. 4 meeting, a majority of the organizations in attendance agreed to hold a public meeting Sept. 27, 2007 to inform current members that a bona fide election needed to occur in order for GLSH to properly operate under its own bylaws. Announcement of the meeting was placed in Central Voice, Panzee Press, Common Roads' newsletter, and Lavender Letter. The meeting agenda also included an invitation for individuals and organizations not currently members to take part in the important meeting that would determine GLSH's future. The invitation also extended to previous but currently uninvolved members interested in the organization's future operations.

The majority group of organizations that reached consensus on holding a Sept. 27 meeting also held a Sept. 13 meeting in order to plan out a meeting agenda for the later date.

Sept. 27 Meeting

There were 37 individuals and organizations in attendance on Sept. 27 at Giant Center's community room. The meeting was facilitated by Rosemary Browne, representing The Foundation for Enhancing Communities (TFEC). After a long and contentious meeting, the bona fide, dues-paying members of GLSH voted to have all financial records turned over to the TFEC by Oct. 15. In turn, a volunteer Nominating Committee came forward in order to properly organize and execute the election of officers as called for under GLSH's bylaws. Committee members were Jim Akers, Russ Boggs, Ben Dunlap, Marlene Kanuck, Blaise Liffick, Ted Martin, and Michelle Simmons.

By Oct. 15, partial statements of GLSH financial records, and all its related projects' and venues' – FAB, Alternative Central, Film Festival, Pride, Parade, Scholarship Fund - were turned over to TFEC. Upon review of financial records at TFEC, King in a later communication to members described the records as "very incomplete." Apparently, there are 12 bank accounts under the GLSH EIN and records were dropped off for only two of those accounts. TFEC served as a drop off point for GLSH financial records at the request of the membership. As treasurer of GLSH and all its associated venues, Marc-Carroll Rigel had been directed by the GLSH membership (ultimately charged with governing the organization as outlined in their bylaws) to drop off bank statements for all checking accounts. Apparently, Rigel delivered a ledger for the main GLSH checking account for 2004, 2005 and 2006, including copies of all cancelled checks and the invoices that were paid. He also included a ledger for Pride 2007, minus any back up documentation. There were no bank statements delivered as directed.

Over a number of years, GLSH had operated several venues under its own tax-exempt EIN number because the venues listed did not separately have their own nonprofit, tax-exempt status. The newly-formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc. has a nonprofit application currently underway. Nonprofit status usually takes five to seven years to achieve although venues are granted permission by the IRS to operate after initial approval. During the five to seven year process, the IRS looks to see if there is sufficient public support for the organization and its mission.

An outcome of the recent round of meetings that is anticipated, and expected, is the separation of Pride and its functions from what has historically been known as GLSH. The separation process is underway. Switchboard functions would shift over to the recently formed Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition. After payment of all outstanding bills from the available $31,650.97, the first remaining $10,000 will accrue to Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc., the next remaining $5,000 will accrue to the same organization for the express purpose of producing the 2008 parade. King expressed his strong desire that the good work of both venues – Pride and the Parade – continue. The next remaining $5,000 would be split among Common Roads, GLSH Scholarship Fund, AIDS Community Alliance, and Caring Together. The four recipient groups were selected by the 2007 Pride Committee.

King also importantly noted in a Nov. 19 communication reporting on the work he was asked to complete by current GLSH members and the newly formed Pride Festival of Central PA, Inc. and the Central PA LGBT Community Center Coalition that "I have not uncovered, and am not aware of any actions on the part of any party that would constitute criminal or civil offense. While there has been much speculation in the community of wrong-doing, in my opinion there is no evidence of anything other than bad business decisions."

Nominating Committee Results

Following the Sept. 27 meeting, the Nominating Committee set out to accept nominations for what was to be a reconstituted GLSH board of directors seated as the result of a bona fide election. GLSH bylaws call for a president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer and three to seven members at large. Individuals coming forward to serve on a nominating committee could not also be nominated to serve on a newly constituted board. That provision was discussed and agreed to by GLSH members who attended the meeting.

In King's Nov. 19 communication to current members, he informed members that he had received only two nominations by the Nov. 6 deadline to make and/or receive nominations. The deadlines are set under the terms of the organization's bylaws and are not the result of arbitrary decisions made by the dues-paying members. "With only two nominees willing to serve, according to the GLSH bylaws, a complete Board cannot be seated at this time. Therefore, we ask that you review and consider the attached report and resolution to be proposed at the general membership meeting on Dec. 6, 2007," King advised in his written communication. The two names placed into nomination were Judy Chambers and Bolton Winpenny.

The Report

Entitled "Report of Findings, Condition of The Gay & Lesbian Switchboard of Harrisburg," King outlined his volunteer work to determine GLSH's current financial and operational status. He received help from individuals and organizations which had a history with the various venues.

With not enough nominations to seat a board under the bylaws, the nominating committee through King's Nov. 19 communication outlined what the committee saw as GLSH's only options: elect a board or dissolve. Although dissolution was described as an option, that action was not immediately available because King determined in his fact finding that GLSH had outstanding bills to pay. Having outstanding bills made dissolution before payment or settlement of the bills impossible under the law.

"Unfortunately, though, in light of the recent discovery of unpaid invoices and the possibility of additional invoices, the previously proposed resolution (to dissolve) is no longer viable because, before any corporation can dissolve it must settle its debts," King, and the committee explained to the membership.

The other option the communication described was "Chapter 7 bankruptcy which would result in the courts appointing a trustee who would, with the assistance of GLSH's attorney, endeavor to do the same thing as the receiver…" The primary difference is that a court-appointed trustee would very carefully audit the records and filings of GLSH, act accordingly based on the findings of those audits, possibly hold the last elected board (2003) accountable. Attorney's fees would be paid, as well as all outstanding invoices, from GLSH's assets as determined by the trustee.

Final Recommendation

With not enough volunteers having come forward to serve on a new GLSH board, and with immediate dissolution complicated by outstanding debt, King and the nominating committee recommended to the dues-paying membership that they vote to appoint a "receiver" to disburse any funds remaining after all liabilities are paid.

The 25 dues-paying members in attendance voted unanimously to place the organization into receivership. Upon payment of outstanding bills, and all necessary tax returns and filings, the organization will cease to exist by the unanimous

What Can Homeowners Expect continued

realistic family budget." Your home purchase is the single largest investment most people make. "Poor mortgage decisions can affect your family for the next 30 years."

2008 buyers will see new programs taking the place of high risk, high rate sub-prime mortgages. The bad news is that if your qualifications are questionable, there are not as many programs around anymore for you. "Fixed rates and 100% financing (no down payment) loans are still available to those who qualify, Riggleman says, but just because a buyer qualifies doesn't mean he should automatically buy. Qualifications set forth by lenders may allow you to finance more than your budget can afford. Most lenders do not take in to account "day to day" expenses - food, clothing, utilities - when calculating the maximum amount for which a buyer may be qualified. Lenders also use gross income when calculating a loan. For example, if a lender allows for 65% as your debt to income ratio, you may qualify, but if you are losing 28% of your income to taxes, you are left with 7% of your gross to try to live on.

Good news for sellers says that plenty of buyers will still qualify to purchase your home. "The bad news is that property values are flattening out, and if you are a borrower that made poor mortgage decisions in the past, you are going to have to reap the oats you sowed when offloading your house," Riggleman clarifies.

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Homeowner Equity Recovery Opportunity - HERO

HERO offers loans for homeowners who, because of credit or other issues, can't afford their current mortgage payments and are not eligible for other programs that could save their homes from foreclosure. Unlike the REAL program, HERO loans are directly made by PHFA, which may negotiate with current mortgage-holders to reduce the amount owed on applicants' properties. Start-up funding for the HERO program is being provided by PNC Bank, the City of Philadelphia, and PHFA. PNC is offering a low-interest loan of $5 million as a loan-loss reserve in southeastern PA. Info: www.phfa.org

The Moving Snapshot

Like any moving snapshot, the image is blurred. An economy is the same way. Here's some quick glimpses of what consumers and economists say they're expecting for 2008.

Consumers

Consumers fear an economic downturn. Higher process for gas, milk, food, and a slumping housing market creates fear.

Freddie Mac

Freddie Mac anticipates more losses and have cut its dividend in half. FM buys home loans from mortgage lenders and is the country's No. 2 guarantor of home loans.

Wall Street

Wall Street is hunkering down and acting like they expect a recession.

Standard & Poor's

Standard & Poor's reports that housing prices fell 4.5% in 2007 3rd Quarter, the sharpest drop since they started calculating the index in 1987. They give a recession a 50/50 chance of happening.

What Would It Take to Send Economy into Free Fall?

New York magazine's Duff McDonald cites five factors his sources tell him might send the U.S. economy into free fall.

THREAT NO. 1

Bottom Continues to Fall Out of the Housing Market

By last August, pending home sales dropped 6.5 percent, and they currently sit at their lowest level since 2001. The National Association of Realtors conducted a recent survey that showed more than 10 percent of sales contracts fell through at the last moment in August, primarily owing to disappearing loan commitments from banks. The crisis will only deepen, when more borrowers see their adjustable-rate mortgages adjusted upward.

Hedge-fund veteran Rick Bookstaber, the author of A Demon of Our Own Design, spells out a potentially disastrous scenario that could unfold regardless of what the Fed does: Continued foreclosures result in a further drop in housing prices, which results in further foreclosures, which result in a further drop in housing prices. Even for those of us not selling, reduced home values result in a reduced sense of security, which results in reduced consumption, which results in a slowing economy, which … you get the point.

THREAT NO. 2

Derivatives-Related Meltdown Continues

Anybody who glances occasionally at the financial pages these days knows that mortgages issued to home buyers are packaged together (in a process called securitization) into a collateralized-debt obligation, or CDO. That's what's known as a derivative, a security whose value depends on the value of other securities. The price of the CDO, you see, is "derived" from the prices of the underlying mortgages. (It works with credit cards, too, or bank loans—any kind of debt will do.)

In principle, the idea of a CDO makes perfect sense. In buying $5 million worth of a CDO, an investor has essentially lent money to an entire portfolio of homeowners, instead of placing all his eggs in one basket, say, by funding a single $5 million mortgage. In the real-estate-crazy environment of the past decade, the CDO market took off like a rocket. But the buyers of these derivatives made a critical error—they confused the spreading of risk with the elimination of risk. A booming economy made this confusion not just possible but irresistible. But, if the real estate melt down continues, we're all in trouble. Analyst Christopher Wood of Asia-Pacific investment house CLSA succinctly defines the problem in his highly readable newsletter Greed & Fear: "[Securitization] has one fatal flaw, which will ultimately prove to be its undoing … it removes the incentive of those making the loan to worry about whether the loan is a good credit."

THREAT NO. 3

Consumers Run Out of Steam

The US economy, for all its worldly sophistication, is driven by mall shoppers and late-night Amazon addicts—70 percent of the gross domestic product is accounted for by consumer spending, which is buttressed by debt. According to the Federal Reserve, total U.S. household debt was, as of August, $2.5 trillion—a 24 percent increase in the past five years. Total credit-card debt, including gas cards and the like, was $915 billion.

The willingness of consumers to keep spending and piling on debt in the midst of a slowing real-estate market is hailed on Wall Street as an act of patriotism that some consider perverse. Imagine that you ran into a good friend and asked him how he was doing. His reply: "I took out a third mortgage, maxed out my credit cards, and emptied out my kids' college savings account so I could buy a bigger TV and a new car, and we're going to Greece on vacation over the holidays. Things are great!"

THREAT NO. 4

The Rest of the World Doesn't Love Us Anymore

The dollar is falling, possibly collapsing, depending on whom you talk to. The greenback has sunk close to its lowest point in the post-1973 floating-exchange-rate era, so low that it's been overtaken by the Canadian dollar—affectionately known as the loonie—for the first time since 1976. How low will it go? When Alan Greenspan was asked by Lesley Stahl of 60 Minutes last month what currency he'd like to be paid in, his response was telling: "[The] key question … is, 'In what currency do you wish to hold your assets?' And what I've done is I diversify." Translation: He isn't betting on the dollar. And neither is the majority of Wall Street.

THREAT NO. 5

We Don't the Slow-Motion Train Wreck

We as Americans don't manufacture that much anymore (we're a service economy!), we are largely talking about foreign-made goods, such as flat-screens from Korea or cars from Germany. Over time, if the dollar continues to slump, foreign manufacturers will raise prices to compensate for what they're losing in the exchange rate. In that light, a Dow at 14,000 with the euro at $1.42 is really no different from a Dow at 13,000 with the euro at $1.33. One reason the price of oil has risen so high is that it is quoted in dollars, and the sellers thereof have had to continually jack up the per-barrel price to maintain their own purchasing power at home and elsewhere.

Still, a rising Dow is better than a falling Dow, and the bulls are piling into every rally. Which still doesn't impress Jeremy Grantham, chairman of Boston-based money manager GMO, in the least. "The equity market is always slow to pick up on someone else's crisis," he says, referring to the turmoil in both the housing and fixed-income markets. "And so you've got a slow-motion train wreck that has to work itself through the system."

Penalties around the Globe

The list, compiled by Helen Boyd ("My Husband Betty" and "She's Not the Man I Married") charts criminal penalties for being gay or lesbian around the world.

Algeria – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Angola – Labor Camps
Antigua and Barbuda – 15 Years in Prison
Bahrain – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Bangladesh – 10 Years to Life in Prison
Barbados – Life in Prison
Belize – 10 Years in Prison
Benin – 3 Years in Prison
Bhutan – 1 Month to 1 Year in Prison
Botswana – A Fine to 7 Years in Prison
Brunei – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Cameroon – A Fine to 5 Years in Prison
Cook Islands – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Djibouti – 10 to 12 Years in Prison
Dominica – 10 Years in Prison
Egypt – 5 Years in Prison
Eritrea – 3 to 10 Years in Prison
Ethiopia – 10 Days to 3 Years in Prison
Gambia – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Ghana – Not Known
Grenada – 10 Years in Prison
Guinea – 6 Months to 3 Years in Prison
Guinea Bissau – Labor Camps
India – A Fine to Life in Prison
Iran – Death
Jamaica – 10 Years Hard Labor
Kenya – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Kiribati – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Kuwait – A Fine to 7 Years in Prison
Lebanon – A Fine to 1 Year in Prison
Lesotho – Not Known
Liberia – A Fine
Libya – A Fine to 5 Years in Prison
Malawi – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Malaysia – A Fine to 20 Years in Prison
Mauritania – Death
Mauritius – A Fine to 5 Years in Prison
Morocco – 6 Months to 3 Years in Prison
Mozambique – Labor Camps
Myanmar/Burma – 10 Years to Life in Prison
Namibia – Not Known
Nauru – 14 Years Hard Labor
Nepal – A Fine to 1 Year in Prison
Nicaragua – 1 to 3 Years in Prison
Nigeria – 5 Years in Prison to Death
Niue – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Oman – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Pakistan – 2 Years to Life in Prison
Palau – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Palestine – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Papua New Guinea – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Qatar – A Fine to 5 Years in Prison
Saint Kitts and Nevis – 10 Years in Prison
Saint Lucia – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Saint Vincent and Grenadines – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Samoa – A Fine to 7 Years in Prison
Sao Tome and Principe – Labor Camps
Saudi Arabia – Death
Senegal – 1 Month to 5 Years in Prison
Seychelles – A Fine to 2 Years in Prison
Sierra Leone – Life in Prison
Singapore – 2 Years in Prison
Solomon Islands – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Somalia – 3 Months in Prison to Death
Sri Lanka – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Sudan – 5 Years in Prison to Death
Swaziland – A Fine
Syria – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Tanzania – A Fine to 25 Years in Prison
Togo – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Tokelau – A Fine to 10 Years in Prison
Trinidad and Tobago – 25 Years in Prison
Tunisia – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Turkmenistan – A Fine to 2 Years in Prison
Tuvalu – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Uganda – A Fine to Life in Prison
United Arab Emirates – Death
Uzbekistan – A Fine to 3 Years in Prison
Yemen – Flogging to Death
Zambia – A Fine to 14 Years in Prison
Zimbabwe – A Fine to 1 Year in Prison

Parade Committee Nominations continued

Lower Fee

The committee is hoping to draw in more groups by lowering the parade fee to $25.

This year's theme is Pride in Self, Pride in Family, Pride in All That You Do.

How to Nominate

Nominations should include the individual's name, contact information, a brief statement of why you feel the individual should be the Pride Parade Grand Marshal and the nominating individual's name and contact information. Nominations can be emailed to cppup@harrisburgpride.org or by mailing nominations to Pride Parade, PrideFest of Central PA, P.O. Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

Deadline for nominations is Friday, January 18, 2008. An individual can be nominated multiple times, but each nomination must come from a different person.

6 Finalists

Once all nominations are received, the parade committee will review them and narrow the field of contenders to six individuals. These finalists will be contacted to see if they are willing to participate and serve as the Grand Marshal.

Community Votes

During February and March, the community will be able to vote on the six finalists for grand marshal. Votes will be made by placing money into jars for the individual you want to serve as grand marshal. Voting and balloting will be conducted at various glbt establishments throughout the region. In April, the committee will tally the funds and announce the winner (the finalist who received the most donations) in April.

Open Parade

The Pride Parade endeavors to bring together the glbt community and their supporters through a public and united front. The parade is a vehicle created to allow all to march equally together, striving to commemorate and celebrate the glbt community's vast history and diversity, while providing a forum for all who support our causes.

Lower Entry Fee $25

2006 – First Common Roads Executive Director **Carol Resinger** and 2004-2006 Pride Chair **Kirk Baney** were the first Grand Marshals.

The committee hopes this year's method of choosing the Grand Marshal will facilitate a wide range of participants, foster community involvement in the parade, and help raise funds to cover expenses. This year's parade committee is hoping to invite at least two marching bands to participate in the parade. They also hope to facilitate more community participation by lowering the entry fee to $25.

Contributions

There are other items the committee hopes to include such as the convenience of restrooms at the start of the parade, rainbow flags for decorating floats, cars, or to wave as marchers in the parade. However all of these ideas take money. There are many expenses associated with the parade such as street blocking and police protection. Overall it is estimated that the committee will need $12,000 to $15,000 to cover expenses. If you would like to make a contribution to the parade please make checks payable to PrideFest of Central PA and mail them to Pride Parade, PrideFest of Central PA, P.O. Box 12103, Harrisburg, PA 17108.

The Pride Parade is a non-profit charitable organization and as such donations are tax deductible with excess funds at the end of the Pride season being donated to organizations that support the glbt community.

This year's parade committee will be making donations to Silent Witnesses of Central PA, AIDS Alliance, Harrisburg Men's Chorus, Central Pennsylvania Womyn's Chorus, Common Roads, and Hospice.

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Tioga County - Two story cabin shell on 2.33 acres walking distance to State Forest. Covered porch, cedar siding, electric to land, $53,900. Owner financing. 800-668-8679

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One-in-Ten Screenplay Winners Announced

The 9th Annual One-in-Ten Screenplay Contest winners have been announced. The contest is dedicated to the positive portrayal of glbtq issues and characters in film.

For 2007, 248 screenplays were submitted from around the world. A record year for entries.

"We are simply amazed regarding the quality of material submitted to the contest year after year. We receive stories that cover a wide spectrum; some extremely niche material (regarding gays and lesbians) as well as some very high concept works. Many of our winners are working as successful screenwriters today. We will continue this niche contest for many years to come." states contest executive director, Michael David Jensen.

Winning screenplays are presented to Hollywood Studios, Agents, Producers and Managers. Cash prizes are also awarded to the top three winners.

Winners are posted at www.OneInTenScreenplaycontest.com.

The contest is now recognized around the world as one of the top screenplay contests and is the world's largest screenplay contest dedicated to gay and lesbian material.

The 2007 Winners:

One In Ten Screenplay Contest

1st Place

ALIAS BONN by John Bain - N. Vancouver, B.C.

2nd Place

AN IMPROBABLE LIFE by Matt Myers - Evansville, IN

3rd Place

BODY FLUID MONOGOMOUS by Howard Skora - W. Hollywood, CA

Honorable Mention:

CURVEBALL by Dan Clark & Gary Goldstein - Los Angeles, CA
DRIVING ME WILD by Joseph Grant Corr - Bowes Park, London
GRILLED CHEESE VIRGIN by Steven Arvanites - New York, NY
ME AND MAMIE O'ROURKE by Jim Arnold - Los Angeles, CA
THOSE WHO WAIT by Rhonda Grimm - San Antonio, TX

The One In Ten Screenplay Contest is sponsored by: Brainstorm Warehouse, LLC, Cherub Productions, Final Draft, Inc., scr(i)pt magazine, www.inktip.com, www.ScreenplayContests.com and www.TopFilmFestivals.com

The submission deadline for 2008 ONE IN TEN SCREENPLAY CONTEST is September 1, 2008. Entry forms are available online through the contest website: www.screenplaycontests.com. Entry forms may also be obtained through the mail by sending a self addressed stamped envelope to: Cherub Productions, One In Ten Screenplay Contest
Post Office Box 540, Boulder, Colorado 80306; (303) 629-3072; www.screenplaycontests.com
E-mail: Cherubfilm@aol.com

HOT OFF THE WIRE: News from the Tech Council Community

technology council of central pennsylvania

AT&T Expands Wireless Broadband in Central PA

Wireless users in the Harrisburg and Allentown areas are the latest to gain access to the state of-the-art third-generation (3G) network being deployed by AT&T. With the addition of 84 new 3G cell sites, advanced broadband wireless applications such as AT&T Media Net,Video Share, and Laptop Connect will now be available. For more information, contact Ellen Webner at 973.637.9357 or via email to ellen.webner@att.com.

New Connections in Compliance Management

| 10.4.07 | Optical Image Technology (OIT) of State College, developer of the DocFinity® workflow and document management software, announced a new strategic partnership with Conexxus, a solution provider in compliance content management. Conexxus, based in Louisville, KY, offers patent-pending technology through the Conexxus OneX application which supports internal audit and Sarbanes Oxley (SOX) compliance. For more information, contact Laural Sanders at 814.238.0038, ext. 253 or via email to lsanders@docfinity.com.

Verizon Expands FiOS Fibor-Optic Network

Verizon will establish its third Pennsylvaniaregional fiber-optic network video hub office (VHO) in Harrisburg to serve the Central Pennsylvania region. Opening of the VHO will allow Verizon to offer fiber-optic access not only to telecommunications services, but also to digital television and video applications. For more information, contact Sharon Shaffer at 215.963.6200.

D&E Enhances Co-Location Services

| 11.2.07 | Telecommunications leader D&E Communications grows its information security and infrastructure support for mission-critical applications with capabilities in both Ephrata and State College. Both feature climatecontrolled environments, comprehensive fire detection, and suppression systems. The facilities also provide for 24x7 logged secure access, fully redundant UPS systems, and backup generators on-site. Internet access is achieved through diverse-path, redundant connectivity to minimize downtime. For more information, call 877.433.8632.

Would you like your technology news highlighted in Hot Off the Wire? Contact Joe Farrell, 717.635.2165; joe@wendtpartners.com.

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PA Provides $5.5 Million for Recycling

Pennsylvania is providing $5.5 million in grants to expand 267 municipal recycling programs statewide, the state announced recently. Recycling conserves energy and natural resources, protects the environment and helps businesses, according to the state. Two years ago, Pennsylvanians recycled a record amount of municipal waste, saving consumers and companies nearly $263 million in waste-disposal costs and providing firms with materials worth $577 million, according to the state. The $5.5 million in grants are for recycling collections that year. Pennsylvania houses more than 3,200 recycling and reuse businesses and organizations.

Oh Those Philly Mummers

Philadelphia Mummers dressed up as jokers while dancing to "I'm Looking Over a Four-Leaf Clover" as they deliver umbrellas to parade judges on the grandstand.

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